

[SERMON NOTES]

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter is always a great opportunity to look back and remember our testimonies of encountering Jesus for the first time and deciding to commit our lives to him. **Share stories of your first experience with Jesus and the events and circumstances surrounding your decision to follow him the rest of your life.** *(If you haven't yet decided to follow Jesus and you feel comfortable, share what might be holding you back)*

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. This is the Story each of us are invited into that we get to celebrate every Easter. It is the Story of the love of God for all of humanity—reflected in the person and presence and passion of Jesus—revealed on the cross and proven with an empty tomb. We have been freed from sin, death, and Satan! The Kingdom of God has come and its King is Jesus! As Christians, these are *the* foundational truths of our faith. **What sets this Story apart from other religions and stories in the world? Why is the Gospel such a compelling one? Why is Jesus so compelling to you?**

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. **Why does Paul place so much emphasis on the resurrection of Christ in this passage?**

The resurrection is the central claim of the Christian faith that everything else rests upon. It truly is an extraordinary truth, though it's something we hold to without having seen it ourselves. **Read the following passages and note common themes. What about these passages surprise you?**

Matthew 28:16-17

John 20:24-29

Jude 1:22

There are various questions, topics, and ideas that often hold us back from a life of trusting Jesus—either in initially committing or in staying the course. A few of these might be reconciling science, psychology, and/or philosophy with a life of faith, engaging the messiness of politics, the presence of suffering and evil and injustice, among other things. **What have been some of your greatest questions and doubts that you need to trust Jesus with? Or what are some of the doubts and questions you hear most often from others?**

How might having mercy on those who doubt change your perspective and your posture towards the doubts of those who do not yet know Christ? How might this change your attitude towards your own questions and doubts?

One of the greatest acts of obedience, mystery, and transformation is to be baptized into Christ's death—dying to ourselves and experiencing resurrection—beginning to encounter the eternal life of God here and now and being welcomed into the community of the faith. Read Romans 6:4-11. **What is the Good News Paul shares in this passage?**

Who can you share the Good News with this Easter season?

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:1-8

Luke 24:1-44

John 20:1-29