

Worship Guide for April 9, 2023

Sermon Notes

The Resurrection Changes Everything

John 20:19-28

In his book *The Reason for God*, Pastor Tim Keller writes, “If Jesus rose from the dead, you have to accept all He said; if He didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about anything He said.....If Jesus rose from the dead that changes everything.”

The point of this message is not to convince you that Jesus is alive, that he is risen from the dead. Scripture declares that truth, eyewitnesses declare it, history confirms it, and the changed lives of many in this room witness to it. The point of this message is to declare that Jesus is risen. That truth can change the lives of those living with fear and doubt. That truth changes everything, and it demands a decision from each of us.

The Resurrection Changes the Lives of Those Living in Fear

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. John 20:19–20

The Resurrection Changes the Lives of Those Living with Doubt

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” John 20:26–28

The Resurrection Changes the Lives of Those Who Make Jesus Their King

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Acts 2:32, 36-37

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."
- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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APRIL

12 Evangelism Class-Session 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
20 BBA Spring Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
22 AHG Yard Sale benefitting Life Choices
26 Evangelism Class-Session 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
30 Communion

MAY

5 Membership Class @ 6:00 p.m.
6 Student Yard Sale - 6:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
13 One Day with God - 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
21 Graduate Recognition Sunday