

Small Group Discussion Guide

ALL THINGS NEW



WARM UP:

What comes to your mind when you think of the phrase, “a new day”? Describe what that would look like for you?

Looking back at this weekend’s message, how did the celebration of Easter encourage or stir you in your spiritual journey?

DIG IN:

Read the Easter account from one of the Gospels: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-20, Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:1-18.

Jesus had been in the grave for three days. He was placed in the tomb on Friday, remained there all day Saturday and was there a short time on Sunday (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1, John 20:1). Many times Jesus said He would rise from the grave on the third day (Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; Mark 9:31; 10:34; Luke 9:22; 18:33; John 2:19-22). Why is it important that all the Gospels take time to clarify what day and time it was?

Digging deeper: Nineteenth century English preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, had a wonderful way of explaining the transition. It went something like this: We gather together on the first rather than upon the seventh day of the week because redemption is even a greater work than creation. Like the apostles, we meet on the first day of the week and hope that Jesus may stand in our midst and say, "Peace be unto you." Our Lord lifted the Sabbath from the old and rusted hinges whereon the law had placed it long before and set it on the new golden hinges that his love had fashioned. Instead of placing our day of rest at the end of a week of toil, He placed it at the beginning of the rest that "remaineth ... to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9). Every first day of the week we were to meditate upon the rising of our Lord, and seek to enter into fellowship with Him in His risen life. That's why we meet on Sunday, not on the Sabbath.

In all four Gospels, women became the first witnesses of the resurrected Christ. In a culture where women’s testimonies were not counted as valid, why would Jesus appear to them first?

Read Matthew 21:2-5. Notice it doesn't say the angel let Jesus out of the tomb. Since Jesus had the power to raise Himself from the dead, He certainly didn't have to wait in the tomb until an angel moved the stone so He could get out! Why **did** the angel roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?

LIVE OUT:

Share how this Easter in particular was or wasn't significant for you spiritually and why that might be.

What difference does it make in your daily life that we worship a RISEN Savior?

Pray for those who made first-time or renewed commitments to Christ at one of our Easter services, specifically that God would protect them and help them “grow up” in their faith. Pray for one another as you welcome Jesus’ entrance into every area of your lives.