



WHY EASTER MATTERS

Groups Questions // Jeff Brodie - Online Easter Service (April 12, 2020)

Tips for Participating in Online Discussions:

- Turn on all the lights in your room.
- Mute yourself when you're listening to others.
- Use people's names a lot to draw each other in.
- Put your camera at eye level.
- Speak a little louder than normal.

Message Recap: Why, specifically in these days, does Easter Matter? Easter matters because we are all having spiritual conversations, in many cases with ourselves. Jesus' followers were initially skeptical and afraid after the resurrection, but Jesus offers peace and life change when our world is turned upside down. When Jesus walks from the tomb into your life everything is going to change!

Scripture: [Luke 24:1-9](#), [30-43](#), [John 20:19](#), [1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

Getting Started:

- Were you able to keep up some of your Easter traditions? How did you adapt?
- Thinking back on Jeff's message, what was one point or verse that stood out to you? Share why it stood out to you.

Jumping In:

- Did you find that the meaning of Easter looked or felt different than other years because of the season we are in? Why or why not?
- Have you noticed that you are having more spiritual conversations? What are your conversations about? Who are you having them with; yourself, others, or both?

Discuss:

1. Skepticism was the first response to the resurrection. As you read the **Luke 24:1-9** passage, who can you most closely identify with; the Women, the Disciples as a group, or Peter?
2. How can we identify as a community with the disciples in this season? Do you think their faith was shaken because of Good Friday? How does this season feel like we are in the days before the resurrection?

3. In **John 20:19** it says that the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the religious leaders. What do you think drove their fear? What had they experienced that led them to feel afraid at that moment?
4. **Read Luke 24:36**. Imagine what it must have been like to hear those words at that moment. Why is that a powerful statement from Jesus at that moment? What does that tell us about God that Jesus chose to say those words at that moment?
5. Jeff shared this quote from Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*: "After the bandages had been removed from her eyes she said, 'I have been, my whole life, like a bell and never knew it until at that moment I was lifted and struck.'" What does this quote mean in light of what we have read about the disciple's interactions with Jesus? How have the lights switched on for you this Easter? What changed for the disciples when the resurrection became real for them? What has changed for you?
6. Peter was a skeptic at the tomb and a denier before Jesus's death. However, at the end of his own life, he died for his faith in Jesus. How can this difference be explained? What would it take for the expression of your faith to never be the same again? (See **1 Peter 1:3-9**). Have you experienced this type of radical life change?
7. Jeff mentioned three reactions to us really understanding the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus. Is this true for you? Why or why not?
 - Your purpose becomes clear.
 - Your faith has meaning.
 - Your hope is eternal.
8. Many of us are asking, "When will life get back to normal?" After COVID-19 are there some things, maybe new priorities, that shouldn't go back to normal? Are there spiritual conversations that you are having that you shouldn't sweep under the rug?
9. The disciples experienced the resurrection of Jesus and their lives were forever changed - the church movement was born and they accessed a living hope. Does this truth reframe Easter for you? Why or why not?

Prayer:

- Spend time praying together. Pray with praise and gratitude for who God is, for His power over death, and for the gift of His Son.
- Pray for each other that the radical truth of the resurrection would change your life as it did for Peter.
- Pray for those who decided to follow Jesus for the first time this Easter.

Moving Forward:

- 'He opened their mind to understand the scriptures' (Luke 24:45). What if this season was a time for you to dig deeper into the gift of God's word? What if you could learn more about the person of Jesus by reading the Gospels regularly? Find a YouVersion plan that you can do together as a group.