

<sup>12</sup>However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

- 4) What stands out to you about the different reactions people had to the empty tomb?
- 5) Why do you think fear and confusion were the first responses instead of faith?
- 6) The angels said, "Remember what He told you." Why is remembering so important in our faith?
- 7) In pastor Craig's message he spoke about 3 different responses of people. Where in your life are you currently more like Peter (wondering), John (believing), or Thomas (doubting)?
- 8) How does the resurrection change the way we view our current struggles?
- 9) Why was it necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead, not just die on the cross?
- 10) What would it look like for you to actively live in the power of the resurrection this week?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) What is one area where you need to refocus your gaze on Jesus this week?
- 2) What truth from Jesus do you need to start believing again?
- 3) Where do you need to choose faith over fear right now?

## **"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"**

Pastor Craig Sweeney | April 5, 2026

**Thread:** *"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."* **John 11:25 NLT**

*"But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.' Then they remembered that he had said this. So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened."* **Luke 24:1-12 NLT**

**Through resurrection, the Kingdom of God is breaking through.**

**Peoples' response to the Kingdom of God breaking through is anchored deep.**

- The instant response of God being present and working was "fear".

**Jesus told them before the horrific events of the crucifixion began.**

- *"Remain in me, I will remain in you."* **John 15:4a NLT**

**Makes me wonder what else Jesus has told me, preparing me for what's coming.**

- Will I believe Him now?

*"Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside.*

He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home." **John 20:3-10 NLT**

**They did not understand Jesus HAD to rise from the dead.**

**No other way to offer you true LIFE.**

"God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."

**Colossians 2:13b-15 NLT**

**Let's remind ourselves WHY he Had to Rise again**

- **He proved He is the Son of God.** "He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord." **Romans 1:4 NLT**
- **He can offer me eternal life.** "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die."  
**John 11:25-26 NLT**
- **My sins are forgiven.** "He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." **1 Peter 2:24 NLT**
- **I am able to know Christ personally.** "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead."  
**Philippians 3:10 NLT**
- **I can live in Freedom.** "Christ has truly set us free."  
**Galatians 5:1a NLT**

Peter "wondered" – John "believed" – Thomas "disbelieved", and was without "faith."

**What am I doing with MY Freedom?**

**What am I to do with my freedom?**

**Challenge:**

- In your life, are the resurrection and your relationship with Jesus connected?
- Am I pressing through to experience the power of His resurrection?

# Homework

## Resurrection Sunday

### Spring 2026 | Week 1

Message Date 4/5/2026

#### MY STORY



- 1) What is your favorite Easter tradition?
- 2) What's something small or random that made you laugh recently?

#### QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

#### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



**Luke 24:1–12 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. <sup>3</sup>So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? <sup>6</sup>He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered that he had said this. <sup>9</sup>So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. <sup>11</sup>But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.