

Leader Guide

Resurrection Sunday

Spring 2026 | Week 1

Message Date 4/5/2026

THE GOAL

Happy Easter! He is Risen, and welcome to the Spring Quarter. This week we are talking about the resurrection. The goal is simple: to renew and refresh our minds when it comes to why Jesus died and rose from the dead. It's also to help us identify areas we may have drifted and help us refocus our gaze upon Him. I hope this study helps us take a fresh look at the resurrection. It's easy, as Jesus followers, to get in ruts and miss the beauty of what the resurrection really means and the implications in our personal lives. My challenge this week is to encourage you guys to truly sit with the meaning of the resurrection and what it does in our lives.

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)

¹But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

²They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

³So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

⁵The 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?"

⁶He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee,

⁷that 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.”

⁸Then they remembered that he had said this.

⁹So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.

¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened.

¹¹But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.

¹²However, 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?

One of my initial thoughts is that even though God was clearly at work, nobody immediately responded with faith. It reminds me how easy it is for me to miss what God is doing right in front of me when things don't look how I expect. But if we are being really honest, can we blame them? People don't rise from the dead.

- 5) Why do you think fear and confusion were the first responses instead of faith?

I think it's because their expectations were shattered. They thought Jesus was gone for good. When life doesn't go how I planned, I tend to default to disappointment instead of faith. One of the other keys is I think the disciples just missed it when Jesus told them He was going to die and be resurrected.

- 6) The angels said, "Remember what He told you." Why is remembering so important in our faith?

I'm not sure about you but I need constant reminders of what Jesus has already said because I forget quickly. Remembering anchors me back in truth instead of emotion.

- 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)?

I think it depends on the day and the situation. When I experience times of grief I feel like I'm wandering so I completely understand why Peter would have been wandering around trying to figure out what's next. Then there's time when my faith is rock solid. And other times when it feels like the prayer has gone unanswered and unanswered -- I doubt. But when I find myself in these situations, I simply try to remind myself God is good and He knows stuff that I don't.

- 8) How does the resurrection change the way we view our current struggles?

The resurrection reminds me that no situation is final. If Jesus defeated death, then He can handle anything I'm facing right now. There is a myth that Christians believe; that God won't give you more than you can handle. I don't believe this is true; I think God allows way more than we can handle. The difference is that He wants us to depend

upon Him in those seasons. The resurrection shows me that He can overcome anything even death.

9) Why was it necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead, not just die on the cross? His resurrection proves He is who He said He is, and it confirms that sin and death were truly defeated. Without the resurrection, there is no victory or new life.

10) What would it look like for you to actively live in the power of the resurrection this week?

In its simplest form, living in the resurrection of Jesus is about living in the spirit. His gifts are the Holy Spirit and living with peace, joy, and hope. My life looks different when I trust in the power of the resurrection, He can overcome anything.

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?