



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

## Christ is Risen! April 27, 2019

(Luke 24:1-12)

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words. <sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

5 minute video-based family devotion at <https://bit.ly/2Io6De8>

1. **KIDS TOO!** What was your favorite part of celebrating Easter? Do you have a favorite Easter song? Favorite Easter tradition?

There's no wrong answer here. At Mount Olive this year we sang *The Strife is O'er the Battle Done*, *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*, *Alleluia*, *Jesus Lives*, *I Know that My Redeemer*

*Lives*, and *Jesus Lives, the Victory's Won*. PW's favorite is *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Band* for how it tells the Easter story.

2. **KIDS TOO!** After hearing this account, which part of the story are you still thinking about?

There's no wrong answer here. The true story of Jesus rising from the dead is more interesting than any question a pastor could write on this sheet! Use this question as an excuse to let your mind ponder what happened on the first Easter Dawn. After anyone answers the question, ask "How do you picture that part of the story happening?"

3. The women had been to Jesus grave, they were up very early (which refers to a time before sunrise), and they had prepared spices. What do those details tell you about the condition of these women? (Discussion Starters: What do they look like? What are they saying, if anything? What is on their minds?)

(The Bible doesn't give answers to those discussion starters, but they might help us try to empathize with the women.) They loved Jesus so much! They followed Joseph to his tomb (see Luke 23). They were up very early—in an age before alarm clocks it's very possible that they were up early because they didn't sleep much on Saturday night. They rested on the Sabbath because they were faithful Jewish women, but they were ready to honor Jesus as soon as possible.

4. The women were not wrong to bring spices to Jesus' tomb. But discuss the difference between how the world deals with death and how Jesus deals with it. How is that same difference true of smaller problems in your life?

The women went to make the grave as pleasant as possible, to dress up death. Jesus just destroys it, transforms it into the gateway to Heaven. The world tries to make bad days seem not so bad, tells you to keep your chin up, has coping mechanisms for dealing with trying times, or diagnoses. Jesus says, in this world you will have trouble but take heart, I have overcome the world (John 16:33). Jesus takes our hardships and tells us he will use them to bring us closer to him (2 Corinthians 12:9), to work some good in the end (Romans 8:28), and to bring glory to himself (John 9:3).

5. Of course, you know how this story ends. The irony is thick in Luke 24! Imagine yourself coming alongside those women on their trek to the tomb. Knowing what you know, craft a few sentences of what you might say to them.

I asked this of a few people last week. Some said, "I hope he rests in peace." "You know you aren't going to need all those spices." One person said they'd just be giggling because of the joy of the good news! No doubt we'd all try to tell them that Jesus is alive.

6. In what ways are the angels' words different from the words you would have said to those women? What are some ways those differences between their words and yours can add layers to your concept of biblical encouragement?

The difference depends on what you decided to say to the women. The surprising thing about the angels' words is that they say "Remember!" They, like we would, told the women that Jesus is alive, but they also pointed back to Jesus' own prediction of these events. Interestingly that is exactly what Jesus does in the next story of Luke's gospel, The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus. It seems that Jesus wants us to connect his resurrection to his promises. The resurrection shows that Jesus keeps his promises.

7. Luke 9:22 "Jesus said, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.'" What are some reasons that the women didn't remember this prophecy?

It seems obvious to us. But they had many things on their mind, and probably forgot about it. With all the emotion of Good Friday and the fear of the Jewish leaders that came on Saturday, the women didn't remember Jesus words.

8. The women found the stone rolled away and the empty tomb. Yet they were still not comforted until they heard the angel's reminder. What are some dangers of enjoying good things without remembering they are fulfillments of God's promises?

We might think the good things that happen to us are just coincidences and miss an opportunity for our faith in God to be

encouraged. We might attribute bad events to God and good events to ourselves.

9. Agree or Disagree: The women had no reason to be sad when they arrived at the tomb.

Agree: They had no reason to be sad. Jesus was alive and their worst fear was totally unfounded.

Disagree: The angel asks "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" and the obvious answer is "Because he was dead!" Jesus actually died and that really was terrifying and disheartening.

Resolution: Ever since Easter we all live with one foot in this world which is quite depressing at times, and another foot in the heavenly world, where we know Jesus will handle every depressing thing in good time. Christians today, just like the women back then are right to be sad sometimes, but it is also true that we have hope. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "We do not want you to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again." We grieve. We hope.

10. The women were sad because they did not remember Jesus words (cf. question 7). How can the same happen to us?

We forget Jesus' promise when we have so many other things on our mind. We need someone to come alongside us and remind us of what we already know. Jesus has overcome the world. He is risen. We will rise. He is with us always to the very end of the age.

11. Imagine someone coming alongside you this week (cf. question 5), what might you need them to say to you?

We don't need any new information to solve the problem of our heart. We need the comfort we already know, but so quickly forget. He is risen just as he said. He keeps every one of his promises. He always will. Someday he'll raise us to eternal life.

12. Come up with one practical take-away from this Easter story. Use this as a chance for review. What's your big takeaway? If people are stuck rephrase it this way: "If your friend asked you tomorrow, "What was good about Life Group?" What would you say?