

## **Easter Weekend 2017**

### **THIS WEEK: Matthew 20**

Pastor Miles gave an inspirational message on the meaning and importance of Easter to Christians. It is the most important event in the history of mankind. He posed the question: How do we know we are not wasting our time being Christians? Jesus is the ONLY religious leader who rose from the dead.

### **Opening questions:**

1. Pastor Miles said God can change our lives supernaturally. Share the most amazing thing you have seen God do.
2. Share an activity you *used* to do that was a waste of your time. What caused you to stop doing that activity?

### **Read Luke 24:1-12**

In the culture of Jesus time, a woman's testimony was not to be believed in court. Discuss why the Bible would use the women as the first witnesses to the risen Christ?

Leader Note: after some discussion, point this out to the group: If, the resurrected Christ is false; wouldn't someone get a better accepted, more credible witnesses than a woman to lie for them?

The Bible is full of stories of people who are not perfect. Have you ever felt that God was mad at you? How would you encourage someone who feels God is mad at them?

### **Suggest forming into groups of 2 or 3 for these questions:**

Pastor Miles talked about folks who go to church or read the Bible when it is convenient. Only doing things when it is convenient is one way the devil uses to break down our relationships with God and each other. Often, when we speak of ways the devil would use against us, it makes it easier to recognize when it happens, and therefore resist better. What is a reason or excuse the enemy would use to try and get you to only be a Christian of convenience?

**Read Acts 4:28-31**

If God promises He can change our lives supernaturally, what would you like to ask Him to do for you through prayer?

If you have an addiction, anger issues, marriage problems, finance difficulties, or some other problem, God can fix it. Share your prayer with someone else.

**Group Activity – Jesus’ appearances after rising from the dead.**

In small groups, search your Bibles for the different passages and times the risen Jesus appeared during the 40 days after Resurrection Sunday. See how many different verses your group can find in 5-10 min or so.

Leader note: Possible passages: John 20:19,20,24; John 20:26-28, Matt 28:16, 1Cor15:7 [See Blue Letter Bible](#) for more details.

**Trivia:** Jesus appeared frequently following His resurrection. First to the women, then to over 500 witnesses in Galilee (1 Cor 15:6) then He returned to Jerusalem where He continued to instruct the Apostles until 40 days later (Acts 1:1-8). Jerusalem back then was a small city - just over half of the size of Liberty Station in Pt Loma. It would have been hard to miss seeing Him!

**LESSON QUOTES:** (from Pastor Miles) Would you rather worship a leader who rose from the grave and now lives or, someone who is still dead?

**LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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