

Easter 2023
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Luke 24
April 9, 2023

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Hopelessness is part of the resurrection story too

The disciples felt like the hope they had found evaporated when Jesus died.

- *Why would it be important to connect to hopelessness in order to truly appreciate the resurrection?
- *What are maybe some reasons why Jesus didn't raise from the dead immediately?

The resurrected Jesus is surprisingly gentle with disbelief

Read and discuss Luke 24:36-43 (NIV)

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

- *What do we see about Jesus in this passage? How does he handle the disciple's disbelief?
- *Where have you experienced him be gentle in your disbelief?
- *What weakness, doubt, or crushed hope are you afraid to bring to him?

Believing in a risen Jesus is believing in a Jesus who has scars

God's love for you has left a visible healed wound on him for eternity.

- *Why wouldn't Jesus choose to have his scars vanish completely?
- *What could this mean about our own scars?
- *What scars of your own— visible or not – are a reminder of a way you have been healed?

The thing we are all looking for isn't religion or doctrines – it is a person

Read and discuss Luke 24:44-53 (NIV)

²² ⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

- *How has your relationship with Jesus helped make sense out things for you?
- *How might this Easter be an invitation to hope again? Where is He asking you to trust what He's done for you?
- *What is one place that your life might look different if the resurrection of Jesus was the most central truth of your daily existence?