

Week Beginning: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Worship Series: #4 in series



living sharing growing

### Theme Verse

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

**-Matthew 28:6-7**

### Remember This Week

Every brokenness is the raw material for a new beginning...  
Every tomb is a workshop of resurrection...  
Every life is the canvas of a new creation...  
When his life moves in you and through you.  
It's a life that will rock your world with joy for eternity!



**lifegroups**  
live life abundantly



**Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**

**- Revelation 22:1**

Lord and giver of life, as you broke through the darkness of sin and death in order to move us from death to life, we ask that you would fill us again with your Spirit of life as we gather around your word. Your word which has the power to bring life and light to all those who hear it. Amen.

1. *Where have you seen God's power at work in your life this last week?*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Can you recall a time when your life moved in an unexpected direction? Share.*
4. *How does the momentum of your life feel at the moment? Moving forward, backward, sideways or staying still? Explain.*
5. *What part of the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus has been significant to you this year?*

The resurrection of Jesus is earth-shaking; death couldn't stop him, hell couldn't hold him, the grave couldn't contain him and sin couldn't beat him. Life moves and the impact of his life continues to move around the world with aftershocks that are history-making, life-transforming and eternity-changing. Today Jesus invites us to make the next life move...to let him come alive fully in us that his presence through us will continue to shake up the world.

Read Matthew 28:1-10

6. *What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?*
7. *What significance might you place on the earthquakes that occur in Matt 27:51-52 and Matt 28:2?*
8. *Why do you think an angel was sent to roll the stone away and tell people what had happened? Why didn't Jesus just meet the women as they approached the tomb?*

It's a story that we hear over and over again, year in and year out. It is a powerful story, the news of it shakes the very earth. Yet we often fail to recognise the seriousness and true impact of the resurrection of Jesus. Imagine you were one of those women who were first to hear of Jesus' resurrection. Try to imagine what it might have been like to hear that news for the first time, "He is not here, he is risen, just as he said. The life and hope that these women would have had as followers of Jesus just days earlier as he rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, had been dashed to pieces over the last three days. Their life was in a holding pattern, the direction they had received from Jesus had suddenly come to and end. Yet on





Sunday morning all of this is restored to them.

9. *Everyone has a reaction to the resurrection. Some hear it and accept it, others question and deny it. How did you first respond to hearing about Jesus' resurrection?*
10. *The women do not just hear the news but also receive some instructions to 'go quickly and tell the disciples'. The resurrection of Jesus moves them forward. How are you being called forward into a deeper life with Jesus?*
11. *In every gospel account, people first hear the news of the resurrection from angels and then sometime later, they encounter the risen Jesus. What can we learn from this when it comes to sharing the news with others?*

As we follow the story of the disciples and their encounters with Jesus after his resurrection and then on into their roles as apostles of the early church, we see fairly quickly that the resurrection of Jesus was not the end of the story. The disciples are told to meet Jesus in Galilee, then they are told to go and make disciples of all nations, but also told to wait until they received the Holy Spirit. The resurrected life of Jesus, moved the disciples forward into a new life of love and power in the Holy Spirit, a life which led to thousands of people becoming Christians and the church taking off around the known world.

12. *The women's response to the resurrection was one of both 'fear and joy'. How do fear and joy influence your response to Jesus' resurrection?*
13. *When we feel comfortable, we are often tempted to stay where we are. How does this fit/compare with the call of Jesus to his disciples to "go"?*
14. *The women went to find Jesus where they had last seen him but found that he had moved on. In what ways do we sometimes look for Jesus 'where we left him'?*

Jesus moves. He is no longer in the tomb, he is risen just as he said. Jesus moves and he asks us to move with him, to follow him. This has implications for us as individuals and as churches. We can be, and often are, tempted to look back on our experiences as people of faith and as a community of believers and see times when it was clear that God was 'with us'; times when we saw more life and hope in our communities and churches. This can be an encouraging and helpful thing to do, but not if we only keep looking for God where we last saw him. God is with us now, and he is always calling us to new life. It may not always look like it did in the past, but if we are following Jesus, and going where he is sending us, it will always lead to a greater and fuller life with him.



God uses every part of our lives to move us forward. The highlights and the good times, the struggles and the pain, all contribute to who we are right now; and who we are is children of God. Yet children can still be rebellious and step away from the blessing and protection of their parents. God doesn't want us to miss out of the fullness of life and blessing that he has for his children. That's why he wants us all to encounter his son Jesus and he invites us to introduce others to our risen Lord as well.

15. *Sometimes in our spiritual life we can feel as though we are not good enough to talk about Jesus. How does it make you feel to know the only requirement to be qualified to talk about Jesus is to have a relationship with him?*
16. *What might have happened if the disciples didn't believe the women and did not go to Galilee to meet Jesus? What kind of life might you be passing up by not trusting Jesus? How do you know/discern where he is leading you?*
17. *Sometimes we allow stones to be placed in our lives that stop us from seeing or experiencing the fullness of Jesus' resurrection in our lives. What is one stone you could ask Jesus to roll away for you this week?*

- \* Praise God for his life giving Spirit, the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead which now lives in you.
- \* Ask God to help you experience more of the resurrection life of Jesus every day.
- \* Pray for those who have not been able to stop and reflect on the amazing news of Jesus' resurrection as they normally would due to the Coronavirus. Public health experts, medical professionals and our civic and political leaders. May they still encounter the love and life of Jesus this Easter.

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

*Name, the life of Jesus is in you . Amen.*

