

Wednesday

Read Luke 24:8-10 *The women tell others*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Is it significant that the first witnesses after the resurrection were women? Why or why not?*
2. *What might have changed if they had decided to keep the news to themselves?*

Prayer Focus: We have had years of hearing the Easter story, yet we don't often run to share that story with others. Consider the love that brought these women to the tomb and the risk they took in telling others what they encountered there. Bless the names of these women, these believers.

Thursday

Read Luke 24:11 *Disbelief*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the apostles dismiss the women's story? What might have been changed if they had believed?*
2. *What are the consequences of choosing to believe or not believe for us today?*

Prayer Focus: Jesus, help our unbelief. Teach us again to listen to others and to their stories and enter into their lives and experiences, so we can truly see and know them. Lend us your ear for hearing the truth, even when it is difficult to believe or accept.

Friday

Read Luke 24:11-12 *Peter runs to see*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Peter go, when the others did not?*
2. *What is most amazing to you about this story? How might it affect your life today?*

Prayer Focus: God of all Creation, our hope of new life, thank you for the story of the tomb and the gift of Jesus' resurrection. We offer ourselves to you to be renewed, to be moved to live again as people who are willing to be surprised by you, to be led by you, to be blessed by you.

Resurrection Morning

The women come to the garden early

We celebrate Sunday as our Sabbath, because of the story of Easter. The faithful women of Luke allow their work of mourning to be interrupted by the good news of the Resurrection.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share something "too good to be true" that's happened in your life. How did you come to believe or accept it?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read **Luke 24:1-12** Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

April 21, 2019
Easter Sunday



Monday

Read **Luke 24:1-3** *The women come to the garden*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think there were no human witnesses to the resurrection?*
2. *Do you think the stone needed to be rolled away?*
3. *What do you think the women thought had happened?*

Prayer Focus: Blessed God, help us see where we have places in our lives and hearts that are still sealed up like tombs. Let us learn again how you can roll away the stones and set us free from loss and disappointment, from heartbreak and failure, from tragic death and prolonged illness, from injustice and violence, from anger and resentment, from loneliness and despair. Let us be ready to step out into life.

Tuesday

Read **Luke 24:4-7** *The shining ones' reminder*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the angels say the women were looking for Jesus in the wrong place?*
2. *The women failed at first to recall that Jesus had told them all about his death and resurrection. Why do you think they forgot?*

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit, stir our memories today. Remind us of how much time we spend looking at death but fail to see the truth of the resurrection. Interrupt our darkness. Remind us what you have taught us through Jesus Christ. Guide us in ways that lead us to see life, to embrace the living, and to recall that Jesus never said he came to give us death, but to give us life in abundance.