

Show Session 5: *What happened on Easter?* (13 minutes).

DISCUSS

J.D. opened this session by highlighting that Jesus’s tomb (though there is debate about its exact location) is empty. In John 20, we read about the empty tomb and the reaction of those who first discovered it. Read John 20:1–10. As J.D. said, Jesus’s empty tomb was and remains “the first and most central Christian confession.”

What makes the empty tomb so central to the Christian faith? What happens to the Christian faith if Christ is not risen from the dead?

To explore the Bible’s answer to the question, “What happens if Jesus isn’t risen from the dead?”, see Practice 2 in the Deeper Walk section at the end of this session.

To use J.D.’s words, believing that a man who was once dead is now alive again is “crazy” and “radical.” And yet, as we see in Acts 4:1–20, this is exactly what Jesus’s disciples—who saw him with their own eyes and spent time with him after his resurrection—swore until the end of their lives, often at great risk to themselves. To the amazement of the Jewish leaders, Peter and John bore witness to Jesus’s resurrection despite the threats levied against them. Read Acts 4:1–20. **What did Peter and John say that caught the Jewish leaders so off guard? Have you ever faced a similar situation, where you**

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years ago. The man Jesus, a man who claimed to be God, reportedly walked out of a tomb he'd occupied as a dead man for three days. He lived. And then he died. But then he was alive again.

In addition to being miraculous, Jesus's resurrection is true. And because it's true it has incredible significance for those who believe in him. It means he's not just a man; he's God in the flesh. And by his death and resurrection, he offers us the forgiveness of sins, purpose, and new life if we'll receive it. Have you received Jesus's gracious offer? If so, what can you do to extend Jesus's offer to others in your life?

SESSION'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

What happened on Easter?

After his crucifixion, death, and burial, Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, proving that he is God; that he has dealt with our sin completely, offering to forgive and transform us; and that our present suffering is light and momentary, and will one day be redeemed.

DEEPER WALK

This section is designed to help you practice different ways to interact with God and reflect on what you've learned in this session. Pick at least one activity to try before the next session.

Practice 1: Memorization

In this session, since J.D. talked about suffering and afflictions, which can often rattle our faith in

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God. Make it your ambition to memorize the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:16–17.

“Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Remember that God doesn’t promise that you’ll escape suffering in this life. Instead, he promises that your suffering is producing something in you that is glorious and that he will use it for your ultimate good. Christ’s death and resurrection assure you that God will keep his promises.

Practice 2: Community

What if Christ did not rise from the dead? The apostle Paul explores that exact question, and he is emphatic: if Christ isn’t alive, that’s a big, big problem for Christians.

Spend some time with a friend or friend group, your family, or a group from church reading and discussing 1 Corinthians 15:12–19 together. Have someone in the group read the passage aloud, and then spend time discussing Paul’s argument. You can use as many or as few of the questions included below to spark conversation.

In verse 14, Paul says, “. . . if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.” **For what reasons would Christian faith be “in vain” if Jesus’s resurrection didn’t happen?**

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great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen."

Practice 4: Confession

Through Jesus’s death and resurrection, and by our faith in him, the Holy Spirit gives us power to overcome the sin in our life. Though we will surely struggle with sin for the rest of our lives, the Spirit helps us put it to death. One of the most potent practices for thwarting sin’s power, which the Spirit empowers us for, is confessing our sins to one another. It may seem simple or counterintuitive, but bringing our sin into the light by laying it bare before God and people we trust can be the difference between being healed and succumbing to temptation.

In James 5:16, the apostle instructs his readers to “confess [their] sins to one another and pray for one another, so that [they] may be healed.” In this exercise, identify a trusted friend or family member to whom you can confess, ask them to hold you accountable, and begin meeting together regularly to obey James’s words in this passage. With the help of the Holy Spirit, make it your ambition to trust that James 5:16 is true and that God will deliver you from the sins and temptations that wage war against you. In all this, remember that Jesus has defeated sin once and for all, and he’s applied that victory to your account. No matter how much you struggle with sin today, rest assured that one day the power and presence of sin will be vanquished entirely.

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