

Transformed
The Resurrection

Reflect

- 1) What is the most earthshaking news you have ever heard?
- 2) What does that kind of news do to you? How does it change you?

Read Your Bible

- Luke 24:1-12
- Matthew 28:1-8
- Mark 16:1-8
- John 20:1-8

Apply God's Word to Your Life

- 1) What stands out to you about the biblical account of the Resurrection? Discuss.
- 2) Notice the skepticism that exists among even the most devout of Jesus' own followers at the news of the Resurrection. That same skepticism exists today. In your opinion what makes the Resurrection so hard for people to believe?
- 3) The Resurrection changed everything. For example, scared, uncertain disciples became motivated, even driven in their witness to the Resurrection, willing to die for what they believed. A Jesus movement sprang seemingly out of nowhere, in a very short time, and has reached throughout the world with its influence. Discuss what other changes the Resurrection has caused, including changes that affect the human heart.
- 4) Many philosophers, poets and regular people have wondered, "Is there any meaning to life that death cannot destroy?" In your view, how does the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead give an answer to this question of meaning?
- 5) Discuss this statement: If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then what He taught and what He stood for is meaningless and you don't have to worry about anything that He said. If He did rise from the dead then you must accept everything that He represents.
- 6) How does the Resurrection require any believer to change his/her world-view?
- 7) What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean for you personally?

If the Resurrection of Jesus isn't true, the Christian faith is a fraud! The biblical witness understands this reality. In his first letter to the Corinthians, (chapter 15), Paul argued that if there is no resurrection then everything we stake our life on as Christians is false, and we, of all people, are the most pitiable. Many people today believe something like this about Jesus, "I really like what I hear about Jesus and what He stood for but I struggle with the Resurrection. It just seems so inconceivable. So miraculous! I don't think I can accept the Resurrection. I'll take Jesus for what He taught and stood for, but the Resurrection is going too far." The Christian response to these kinds of queries is pretty straightforward, "If Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, then you don't have to accept anything He taught or said. In fact, if He wasn't raised from the dead, nothing He said, or taught, or did really matters so why worry about it? But if He did rise from the dead you better rethink your position. And you better examine what you believe and why you believe it. Because if Jesus was raised from the dead, what He said, what He did, and who He is matters more than anything else in this world." The center of the Christian faith – the heart and soul of Easter – is the Resurrection. And the Resurrection literally changed everything! It has changed the world one life at a time starting with the women who first heard the Good News.

Pray

God, thank You for the Resurrection of Jesus, Your Son, my Savior. His life, His teachings, His service, His grace, His love I will seek to emulate in all that I think, do and say. Thank You for the freedom that comes through the Resurrection – for there is nothing I need fear in this life or the next. You have paved the way for me in life and in death. And so, I offer my thanks and my heart. He is risen. Alleluia. Amen!