

Easter Discussion Questions 4.16.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What is your favorite story of a time Jesus surprised you?
2. Share a story about a time when something you thought was really bad happened, but it unexpected turned into something wonderful.

Background

Put yourselves in the shoes of the women who waited through the Sabbath to be able to go and attend to Jesus' body following his crucifixion. They don't know they are about to be witnesses to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb that Sunday morning she was sure someone had done something with the body and she ran to tell the disciples. Imagine being in her position, what would you have assumed happened?

Read John 20:1-18

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. Who is the first person to Jesus' tomb the Sunday after the crucifixion?
2. Who raced to the tomb when they heard Mary's story? Who won the race and who entered the tomb first?
3. After John and Peter had gone Mary was still at the tomb weeping. Who does she mistake Jesus for?
4. What message does Jesus have for Mary to give to the disciples?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. The prominent role that Mary Magdalene plays in this story is unusual as women were far from equal with men in the Roman Empire during the 1st century. What does this tell us about who Jesus will use to carry his message?
2. Peter and John race to the tomb to verify Mary's story that Jesus wasn't in the tomb. The author tells us that they still didn't understand why Jesus had to rise from the dead, but they believed. What did it take for you to believe that Jesus was the Son of God?
3. Jesus did not look like himself or Mary would have recognized him when she saw him. What do you think was different about Jesus?
4. Women were essentially invisible to men in the 1st century and yet Jesus repeatedly put women in the center of attention in good ways. Who are the invisible members of our church family today?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. When we choose to follow Jesus we are made new. How can we be different to the point of not being recognizable because of the positive impact of Jesus on our lives?
2. Why do you think seeing the grave clothes carefully folded in the tomb was enough to convince Peter and John to believe? How much evidence do we need?
3. How can we show those who do not believe that Jesus is alive and at work in our world today?
4. Jesus trusted Mary Magdalene, someone who was a social outcast at best, to carry a critical message to his disciples. Who might Jesus be using to bring a similarly critical message to our lives today

Closing

Celebrate together that Jesus conquered death and he will return again to renew the heavens and the earth. We will worship him as he sits on the throne, what could be better than that? Spend a few minutes praising Jesus for what he has done, is doing and will do in our lives and this world.

Reminder: Jesus has risen.... He has risen indeed!