

Group Gathering Question:

With it being Easter this week amidst the Coronavirus illness, do you feel more positive or negative? Joyful or down? Worried or grateful?

1. In John 20:1-18, John recorded the responses of three disciples to Jesus' resurrection (Mary, Peter and John). What did each see? How did each respond to what they saw? With which of these three do you most identify and why?
2. When you think about Jesus rising from the grave, how can you relate that miraculous story to your own life today? Does the resurrection bring you joy, hope, purpose or something else?
3. Jesus' death and resurrection means life for us. When you think that Jesus came to give you abundant life on earth (John 10:10) and eternal life through the resurrection (John 3:16), which means more to you?
4. What is a quiet way in the past (or currently) that you have experienced the risen savior?
5. What is one action you can engage in this week that serves as a way for you to whisper the Easter story to someone?
6. How can we pray for / support / care for one another this week? (share personal prayers requests)

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Gabrielle Carnell, Carver McGriff, Ritter, Robert Neal, and Mike Witter.
- > Prayers of comfort for Judy Wenning in the death of her sister and Melanie Toy, in the death of her sister.
- > Prayers for health care workers, truck drivers, grocery stores workers, and others taking risks to provide service and care.

Happy Easter! We hope you had a beautiful holiday with loved ones. Despite not meeting face to face, it is still good to meet virtually. As the leader, try and check in with your group and see how everyone is doing. Get to the questions as you can, you don't have to do them all. Please take time to share prayer requests and pray.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! John 20 describes the resurrection story. As a leader, share the joy, hope and love of the resurrection with your group in the midst of uncertainty, sadness, job loss, and fear.

1. John is the author and the disciple Jesus loved. He sees the empty tomb and the cloths neatly lying there. He believes. Peter comes and sees and leaves. Mary thinks someone has taken the body, then cries, then thinks he is the gardener, then believes it is Jesus. Would you believe Jesus is alive immediately, or would you go and see for yourself, leave and be unsure? Would you cry and then be excited like Mary?
2. The resurrection is a miracle, the greatest miracle to us. What does it mean to you today – joy, hope, purpose, or something more?
3. Jesus said in John 10:10 that the thief (Satan) comes to kill, steal and destroy. In contrast, Jesus comes to give a full, abundant life. He comes also to give eternal life. Are both equally meaningful to us, to you? Or is one more important?
4. We are experiencing Easter quietly this year, in our homes, sitting on our couches. How have you experienced Easter quietly in the past or now? Perhaps you saw Jesus at a funeral for a loved one, or you've seen a small sign of the resurrection that maybe no one else saw somewhere else.
5. We are limited in actions outside our homes, so be creative here. Think small, a whisper, how you can serve someone and glorify God this Easter.
6. Please take time to share PERSONAL requests and needs. Then pray for one another and share if you can help each other or pray for each other the next 7 days.

Proposed 40 Minute Home Group Agenda

- > 5 minutes Welcome everyone, chit chat, opening prayer
- > 2 minutes Read scripture
- > 20 minutes Answer Home Group questions (you don't have to do all of them)
- > 10 minutes Collect prayer requests
- > 3 minutes.....Closing prayer and say goodbye

Give yourself freedom to go off this agenda, or expand it as needed to 60 minutes or more. Give yourself grace that it might not work very well the first week, but with practice it will get better.

Finally, give us feedback on how your groups are going. We need to hear from you. We can make adjustments with you as needed.

Thank you for providing this valuable connection with our church family!