



The Soldiers' Perspective | April 8 and 9, 2023

Begin your group by catching up with one another (20 minutes)

Ask each person to share about how they're doing at work, at home, and in their families. Give each person space to share as much or as little as they want about each bucket.

Then ask, "What is your earliest memory of Easter?"

Split your group up into smaller groups to read Scripture, have some silence, answer reflection questions, and prayer (30 minutes)

Here are the passages you will discuss in your groups: **1 Corinthians 15:26-27, 49-52, 54-57; John 11:1-44; John 14:1-3; Philippians 2:6-11; and Hebrews 2:14-15.**

Here are the instructions for each mini group as they read the above Scriptures:

- Assign each text to a different person to read to themselves.
- Tell them to be prepared to paraphrase what the passage was about.
- When everyone has finished steps 1 and 2, have each person read their assigned text and then paraphrase its meaning.
- After each Scripture's reading, ask, "What does this passage have to say about Jesus' resurrection?"

Finally, to wrap up this opening, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Come back together as a large group to debrief and recap the sermon (30 minutes)

Have someone begin by reading **Matthew 27:62-28:15**.

- Go around your circle and have each person share what stood out to them from your smaller group discussions.
- What do you think are the biggest barriers people have in believing in Jesus' resurrection?
- Do you believe that Jesus physically rose from the grave?
- If yes, how real is Jesus' resurrection to you and how does that impact your life? If no, what are your biggest hesitations?
- In your own words, describe what this past weekend's sermon was about.
- What part of this sermon deepened your faith or challenged you most? Explain.
- What do you think it looks like to trust in Jesus' resurrection?
- Where do you need resurrection to occur in your own life? How does Jesus' resurrection speak into that reality for you?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.