

Taking It Home:

- Have you believed the story of Jesus' resurrection? Have you shared the resurrection story with anyone recently?

- Rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus! Take time this week to contemplate the power of the Gospel to change lives and then turn that contemplation into praise to God. This may look like an inward prayer, a shout of praise, singing to God or other form of worship.

- If you need additional encouragement this week, remember that the Peter who denied Jesus in Luke 22:54-62; is the same Peter who stood before the crowd in Acts 2:14-41. The truth of Acts 1:8 resulted in a group of men and women who, "turned the world upside down." (Acts 17). Jesus' resurrection changes everything!

- Consider memorizing John 3:16 and John 14:6 this week:
 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **(John 3:16)**
 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **(John 14:6)**

Recommended Resources:

- Consider these books from Lee Strobel: *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for The Resurrection*, and visit his website for helpful videos at www.LeeStrobel.com.
- Watch *The Jesus Video* available online at www.jesusvideo.org.
- Consider Noel Piper's book on developing helpful traditions in sharing your faith: *Treasuring God in Our Traditions*.

Easter Sunday
Jesus: Some Stories are True

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
April 20, 2014

Jesus: Some Stories are True

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 20, 2014

Quick Review: People love stories. Our world is full of great stories. Stories exist to entertain and to inform. Stories help us make sense of what happens around us. With all of the stories we tell, it is important to remember this Easter season that one story rises above all others: the story of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection changed everything.

After Jesus was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea took His body and placed Him in a family tomb. The tomb was sealed with a large stone to keep people and animals away. Three days later, you can imagine the panic when two women burst into the room to report to His followers that Jesus was missing. His body had disappeared. The grave clothes were left behind. The stone was rolled away. He was gone! Several unconvinced disciples jumped and ran to the tomb to see it with their own eyes. Just as the women reported, they discovered the stone rolled to the side and the left behind grave clothes. Two angels announced as they approached the grave that Jesus was no longer there.. Jesus was gone. Jesus had raised from the dead. This story is still changing lives today. Jesus is risen; He is risen indeed!

My Story:

- Who is your favorite storyteller and why?

- What makes a good story, great?

- When you first heard the story of Jesus' resurrection, did you believe it?

Growing Deeper:

- Luke is very clear in Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-5 about his purpose for writing. How would you summarize why Luke was writing?

- Read all of Luke 24. What stands out to you about the characters in this story? Who was quick to believe? Who was quick to doubt?

- Luke repeats several elements of the story in chapter 24. What gets repeated and why is that significant?

- Each of the four gospel writers records the resurrection of Jesus: Matthew 28; Mark 16; and John 20. Why is it significant that the women were first to discover Jesus' empty tomb? Why is it significant that all four authors record this data point?

- Paul writes about the resurrection of Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to a modern day disciple?