

Easter 2024

2024-03-31 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Luke 24

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Israel had seen would-be messiahs before Jesus, and every one of them stayed dead. That is what makes the angels' question at the tomb land: why do you look for the living among the dead? Pastor Matt walked through the evidence, thousands of early manuscripts and the five hundred eyewitnesses Paul names, and then said the honest part out loud: evidence alone has never convinced anyone. God has to make it personal. And if Jesus beat death, the thing you are stuck in does not get the last word.

To get started

- What is the difference between believing something happened and letting it change you?

Looking back at the message

He named other first-century figures who claimed to restore Israel and stayed dead. That context makes the resurrection a claim rather than a category.

- 1 Other would-be messiahs came before Jesus, and every one of them stayed dead. Why does it matter that this one did not?
- 2 Pastor Matt said we file the resurrection away like old news about a historical figure, next to Julius Caesar and George Washington. Where do you catch yourself doing that?
- 3 Pastor Matt compared how people act at a football game, painted up and shouting all day, with how we act on Easter morning. What do you make of that comparison? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Luke 24:1-12. The angels' question is the sermon's title question.

- 4 Read Luke 24:1-8. What question gets asked at the tomb, and who is it asked of?
- 5 Read verses 9-12. How do the disciples first react to the news?
- 6 Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. What evidence does Paul list, and who does he name?
- 7 Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19. What does Paul say would be true if the resurrection never happened? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He said what most people need is not more data. Do not turn this into an apologetics debate.

- 8 Pastor Matt gave a fill-in-the-blank: because Jesus beat death, I can beat what? How would you fill it in?
- 9 When has the resurrection actually changed how you handled a week? Tell about it.
- 10 What question about the resurrection have you never asked out loud?
- 11 Pastor Matt said many people got disenchanted with church after their hopes crashed. What is that story for you, if it is yours? OPTIONAL

The group together

Easter services fill with people who rarely come. Talk about what happens next for them.

- 12 Who came with you, or because of you, at Easter?
- 13 How would you explain the resurrection to a friend who assumes it is just a nice story?
- 14 What would this church look like if everyone really believed it?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What are you stuck in that a risen Jesus has power over?

You might pray about

- For people who came at Easter and have not come back
- For faith that is more than intellectual agreement
- For those whose hopes crashed and have not recovered