

STUDY NOTES

HOLY WEEK 2019: EASTER SUNDAY

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Easter Sunday: So You Might Believe” on 4/21/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 21:19-31

FAITH AND THE MEANING OF LIFE

The story of Easter is a story about the meaning of life. Jesus did not call us to believe in the resurrection with blind faith. In other words, faith does not require you to renounce reason.

Any conclusion you’ve made about the meaning of life has been done via faith.

- Give some examples of how everything requires some measure of faith.

There is evidence to the resurrection in four separate accounts. Eye witness testimony is not that reliable if it is one or two people witnessing one event; but Jesus showed up time after time over 40 days.

- How does Jesus appeal to those who find faith easily or to those who find it difficult to believe without evidence? Why is it important that he appeals to both type of people?

FIRST CENTURY SIMPLICITY

Some people believe that the people in the first century were more simple-minded and prone to believe the unbelievable. But the Scripture records that even Jesus' closest friends didn't believe the resurrection until they saw Jesus for themselves.

- What are some reasons that you've heard why people don't believe in the resurrection?
- How does it make the resurrection more believable today to know that Jesus's followers doubted it at first?

People of all educational backgrounds followed Jesus. Luke was a doctor, Paul had the equivalent of multiple PhDs, and John was a fisherman. Then they saw Jesus, and ate with him. They now had new evidence—clear evidence—that something ENTIRELY new had happened.

Everyone has to face the undeniable reality of Jesus and believe in him as Lord.

- How do the various backgrounds of Jesus's followers encourage you today? What does it teach you about who can follow Jesus?

BELIEF LEADS TO LIFE

We all have beliefs that rule our lives. We all are putting our faith in something! If you don't have meaning you don't have life. If you don't have life, you don't have meaning. John says that, when we believe in Jesus, we can have life in his name.

Jesus is Life. For everyone!

- What are specific ways that the hope of the resurrection has given life to you (include big ways and little ways)?
- Pray with each other to find encouragement in the resurrection everyday, not just on Easter.
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