

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

"Into Your Hands" April 12, 2020



Opening Questions

1. Share your journey of faith. What are the key elements that have brought you towards Jesus?

Going Deeper Questions

Read John 20:1-31

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What is John trying to communicate in the first 10 verses?
3. Why do you think he includes the parenthetical statement in vs. 9?
4. Wolfhart Pannenberg has famously written that "*the evidence for Jesus' resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it, except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.*" What do you make of this quote? Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. In verses 11 – 29, John shares stories of Jesus revealing himself to his followers (Mary, the disciples, and then Thomas).
 - a. What are these people struggling with?
 - b. Which of these people do you identify with the most? Why do you think that is?
 - c. How does Jesus overcome each person's particular struggle?

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6. Many Christians who struggle in their faith often think that if they were saw the empty tomb firsthand, it would be easier to believe in Jesus. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

7. Imagine a co-worker saying, "Ok, I understand why Christians believe that Jesus had to die, but I don't understand why the resurrection matters." How would you explain the significance of the resurrection to them? (Without using 'Christianese'*)

8. In verses 30-31, John concludes this passage by sharing why he wrote his gospel account. Reflect on these words for a moment. What strikes about them? What does it mean to have life in his name?

Close in Prayer

***Christianese:** ₁Words, jargon and phrases used by Christians that are unintelligible to people outside the faith.

₂Words used by Christians that they barely understand themselves and words that confuse everyone else.

₃Phrases used within the Christian faith that are trite and lack sincerity.

BLESS Rhythms Summary: (modified)

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying groceries for someone, banging pots at 7pm to show your thanks, checking in with your neighbour). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

E-mail/Text/Video Call. This is the practice of reaching out to someone that comes to your mind while you are in prayer this week. *Who have you connected with this week?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*