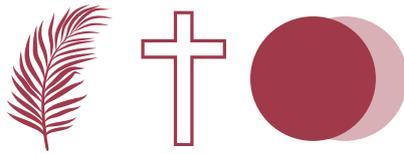


CONNECT GROUP GUIDE



RISEN!

THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS



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THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS

Series Overview

April 7	John 20:11-18	Appearing to Mary Magdalen
April 14	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
April 21	Luke 24:36-49	First Easter Night
April 28	John 20:24-29	Doubting Thomas
May 5	John 21:1-14	Miraculous Catch
May 12	John 21:15-25	Peter Restored

CONNECT GROUPS

At ACN, the primary avenue for **discipleship** is in a **Connect Group**, and we **encourage everyone** to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us **grow** as disciples. Connect Groups help us to **connect** with **each other**, **connect** with the **Word** and **connect** with **God** through **prayer**.

We need time to **relate** to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways. As we get into the Word, we **examine** its **truth** and **relevance** in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is **explored**, **explained** and **discussed**, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

RESURRECTION

The **Resurrection** gives us the great Easter proclamation. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!

The Resurrection Appearances in the 40 days prior to Jesus ascending into heaven are an important part of his ministry, an important part of forming those early disciples, and an important part of our conviction about the truth of the resurrection.

In this series we are looking at 6 times when Jesus interacted with individuals or a group, what that meant for them, and what it means for us.

Because the good news of Easter can't be contained in the celebration of just one day, the Church calendar gives us the Easter season, which lasts for 50 days until we celebrate Pentecost, with Ascension Day remembered at Day 40 (this year Thursday May 9).

We will then have the fantastic opportunity to celebrate the great news of the coming of the Holy Spirit together in a Combined Service at Peregrin on Pentecost Sunday, May 19! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!

RISEN!

APPEARING TO MARY MAGDALEN ~ JOHN 20:11-18

INTRO

Have you ever experienced a disaster but then some good came out of it later?

1. What stands out to you in this story of the women being the first witnesses of the resurrection?
v.18 - compare Mark 16:8, Luke 24:9-11, 22-24
2. Why is it remarkable that this story made it into scripture?
3. What does v.14 tell us about Jesus' resurrection body?

SERMON NOTES

4. v.16. Imagine the risen Christ calling your name.
What would your reaction be?

5. What do you think Jesus means by what he said in v.17?

6. When has Jesus been present in a situation but you didn't recognise it at first? How did it become obvious as things unfurled?

7. When have you experienced overwhelming grief?
Did Jesus show up?
Or are you still waiting?

Don't spend too much time on the issue of Jesus' ascending to the Father and not touching him. There are complex arguments surrounding the Greek language and theology here. Instead focus on the last part of the verse where Jesus points to the fact that his God and Father is now also our God and Father. Reflect on this in the light of the intimacy of relationship Jesus has with the Father earlier in John's Gospel.

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- Pray for any grief you may bear to give way to joy in the light of the risen Christ
 - Pray for a growing intimacy of relationship with the Father for each member of your group



SERMON NOTES

RISEN!

ROAD TO EMMAUS ~ LUKE 24:13-35

INTRO

Share a time when you have felt the scriptures were made real and new for you.

1. Try retelling this story out loud in your own words.
In your group time, let two or three people have a go.
What stands out to you from this story?

2. The road to Emmaus was windy and hilly. It would have taken several hours. Reflect and share on how the pair may have been feeling, and what they might have been saying.

SERMON NOTES

3. Why do you think they were sad and aghast at Jesus' question?
v.19
And why do you think Jesus acted ignorant of the facts?

4. Jesus began his 'teaching' of the pair with a reprimand.
vv.25-26
What was it about the teaching that made them 'urge' him to stay for dinner?

5. What was it that happened for them to recognise him?
And what made the difference to these two that they return with a fire in their hearts?

6. Why do you think it is hard to see Jesus for who he really is?
How did Jesus open your eyes?

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- Thank the Lord for opening your heart and mind to the truth that changes everything
 - Pray for those you know who have heard about Christ, but don't know him yet
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to speak to people about Jesus



SERMON NOTES

RISEN!

FIRST EASTER NIGHT ~ LUKE 24:36-49

INTRO

Think about a time when you struggled to believe something until you experienced it firsthand.

How did that experience change your perspective or understanding?

1. Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus first appeared to them, and how did he reassure them?

2. Why do you think Jesus showed his wounds to the disciples? Why does he go to great lengths to show that his resurrection is physical and bodily, not ghostly and ethereal?

SERMON NOTES

3. From this passage, how is Jesus' life connected with the Old Testament? What would the disciples have understood when he "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures?"

5. In what ways can we be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection today? Is it any different for us than for the disciples Jesus spoke to?

4. How does Jesus prepare his disciples for their future mission in vv.46-49?

6. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our witnessing?

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- Ask God to open your minds to understand the Scriptures
 - Pray for people to receive Jesus and to know his peace with them
 - Pray for God's mission of the gospel going to all nations to be fulfilled, particularly in our work, relationship and daily lives



SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

3. What does Thomas say?
Read John 1:1, 14, 18 to see what the writer of this Gospel is hoping we all come to understand. Did Thomas understand it?

4. Thomas' testimony of belief is because he saw.
What is your testimony of belief in the risen Jesus?
Share briefly with the group.

5. v.29 Who does Jesus say is blessed? Why is this surprising?

6. How does this story encourage you in your faith?

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- Thank God that he has given you evidence about Jesus to believe
 - Pray for friends who are not believers, that they will look at the evidence and come to believe



SERMON NOTES

RISEN!

MIRACULOUS CATCH ~ JOHN 21:1-14

INTRO

Share about an outdoor breakfast that you have enjoyed - especially if you are a 'camper'.

1. v.3 Peter says I'm going out to fish. What type of fishing might this have been, commercial, or recreational while waiting for his apostolic assignment?
2. v.4 Contrast this verse with Mary Magdalene's experience in John 20:14. What does this tell us about Jesus' resurrection body?

SERMON NOTES

3. vv.7 & 11 What does the story reveal about Peter's character? Why might he be so keen to see Jesus?

4. How do you imagine the scene when you read v.12?

5. Look back at the previous chapter from 20:19. What are the two previous times Jesus has appeared to his disciples?

6. Jesus transformed their everyday business that day. Why do you think they might have counted the fish? and John record it?

Please note that no one really knows if there is a significance to the number, but it does mean that they actually counted and were obviously impressed!

If you wish you can research the theories on the internet.

7. Compare this story with Luke 5:1-11. Why might Jesus repeat this type of miracle now?

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- Pray that you might recognise the risen Lord in the everyday events of your life
 - Ask the Lord to take all that you do and transform it for his kingdom purposes



SERMON NOTES

RISEN!

PETER RESTORED ~ JOHN 21:15-25

INTRO

When you have been forgiven after making a mistake?

How did experiencing forgiveness influence your life moving forward?

1. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him?

2. What is the significance of Jesus' instructions to Peter to "feed my lambs", "take care of my sheep", and "feed my sheep"?

SERMON NOTES

3. What do you think Jesus means when he tells Peter, “Follow me”?

5. How does John’s testimony (v.24) close to the end of his gospel make you feel about Scripture?

4. How does this passage emphasise the importance of love in discipleship?

6. What can we learn from Peter’s restoration and commissioning for our own journey of faith?

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- Pray that forgiveness would be renewed in your life and in the lives of those around you
 - Pray for relationships to be restored following significant breakdowns
 - As a response to this series, ask God to confirm in you afresh the power and significance of the resurrection



SERMON NOTES

