

12 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in the message:

TOPIC: Resurrection Sunday

 Let's hear your story

1. If you hear that someone has been raised from the dead, what is the first thought that comes to your mind?
2. Who are you most likely to believe when you hear of a resurrection; an angel, seeing the empty tomb; from your best friend or from your brother or an enemy?
3. In what ways have the resurrection of Jesus Christ impacted and transformed your life? (decisions, priorities, eternity, etc.)

 Let's go deeper

4. According to 1 Cor. 15:4a; what happened to Jesus? (He was buried).
5. Why is it important that Jesus was buried? (It is proof and confirmation that He really died – see Mark 15:42 – 47).
6. Can you name the precautions the pharisees and chief priests took to secure the tomb? (See Matthew 27:62 – 66).
7. What is the lie recorded in Matthew 28:11 – 15, by the chief priests and elders? (Jesus' disciples came during the night and stole Him away)
8. Who did Jesus appear to in 1 Cor. 15:5a? (Cephas, Simon Peter).

 Let's apply this

9. **Matthew 28:5 - 6;** the angel said to the women, do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.

When we see the place where they laid Him;

- we see that the Father did not forsake Jesus.
- we see that death is conquered.
- we see that we have a living friend in Jesus.

SUMMARY:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:4 – 8

1. Jesus died and was buried – empty tomb

Jesus' burial is proof that He really died, and Jesus' death was confirmed at the cross before He was taken down to be buried. The bodies of crucified criminals were usually left on their crosses to rot or be eaten by wild animals. Pilate personally investigated the matter of Jesus' death and found reliable eyewitness testimony from the centurion, who had seen many crucifixions, and knew if a man was dead or not. Jesus' burial is also important because it fulfills Old Testament prophecy.

How can we be confident that Jesus' tomb really was empty?

- The tomb was secure and guarded (Matt.27:62 – 66)
- The guards spread a false report (Matt.28:12 – 15)
- An angel announced that Jesus was raised to life (Matt.28:6)
- The Jewish authorities would have showed His body if they had it.
- The same records of Jesus death and burial; also tell us His tomb is empty.

2. Jesus was raised on the 3rd day according to the scriptures

All 4 Gospels record Christ's resurrection.

Read: Acts 1:3; Hebrews 2:14 – 15 and Revelations 1:18

3. Jesus appeared to Cephas (Simon Peter) and to the 12

Read: Luke 24:34 and Mark 16:14.

History tells us that Peter was martyred; crucified upside-down on a X- shaped cross. The dramatic change in the disciples, they went from a group of men frightened and in hiding to strong, courageous witnesses sharing the gospel throughout the world.

4. After that He appeared to more than 500 of His brothers and sisters

Read: Luke 24:13 – 32; Matthew 28:10, 16 – 17 and Acts 1:15

5. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles

James, brother of Jesus, leader in Jerusalem church (Acts 15) and author of James.

Read: John 20:24 – 29, Jesus appears to Thomas (Thomas died as martyr in India).

6. Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus

Read: Acts 9; Paul, also known as Saul, a persecutor of Christians; till Jesus appears to him and Paul became an influential apostle who wrote 14 of the 27 N.T. books

7. Personal Testimony

Every born-again believer has a testimony of how Jesus revealed Himself to you, by His Word, Spirit, His love, friends, family, creation or a situation.