



THE CAMPUS CHURCH
LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

Small Group Discussion Resource

Easter 2023

CSI Christ Scene Investigation

As you begin your discussion, share some Easter traditions you and your family have enjoyed over the years.

1. Read through all of John 20. And then pray that the Holy Spirit would give you insight during your discussion.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-22. Here Paul speaks of the importance of the resurrection and how it is the hinge on which all of human history swings. What stands out in this passage to you?
3. Honestly now, when you give the Easter greeting “he is risen... he is risen indeed”. How does that make you feel? Happy, excited, sober, or perhaps a bit nervous?
4. The resurrection of Jesus can be confusing. Read this story together: *A group of four-year old kids were gathered in a Sunday school class. The enthusiastic teacher said, "Does anyone know what today is?" A little girl held up her finger and said, "Today is Easter Sunday." The teacher said, "That's fantastic." "Now, does anyone know what makes this day special?" The same little girl responded and said, "Today is Easter because Jesus rose from the grave" and before the teacher could congratulate her, she kept on talking and said, "But if he sees his shadow...he has to go back in for seven weeks!"* Describe some of the confusing things about the resurrection.
5. “Reasonable Faith”. How do those two words go together?
6. Read the section about Thomas again from the Message. Are you the kind of person who accepts things easily or are you by nature skeptical? Has your skepticism ever turned into cynicism? How can healthy skepticism be helpful for our faith?

²⁴⁻²⁵ *But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.” But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”* ²⁶ *Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”* ²⁷ *Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand*

and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe." ²⁸ Thomas said, "My Master! My God!" ²⁹ Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

7. What do you think would be going through Thomas' mind in that week between when he heard of the resurrection of Jesus and when he had this personal encounter with Jesus?
8. In the message, several theories of the resurrection were suggested. Review these and add any thoughts you might have had if you were Thomas? How would you defend or deny these theories?

Possible theories

- The mistaken tomb theory.
- The swoon theory.
- The stolen body theory part A. The disciples stole the body to make it look like a resurrection.
- The stolen body theory part B. The Jewish authorities stole the body.
- The new religion theory.
- Everything the disciples reported was true. Jesus did rise from the dead.

9. Watch this funny video and discuss your thoughts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23UNLLbOS3w>

10. The followers of Jesus were dramatically transformed by their conviction of the truth of the resurrection. Describe that transformation. What did it look like? How did their lives end? What does this imply about the resurrection?
11. How did you personally process the truth of the resurrection? How did you arrive at the conclusion it was true?
12. Jesus says to Thomas "*Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe.*" Share your thoughts about how considerate Jesus was being. What does this tell us about how Jesus feels about our doubts?
13. Reflect on this last line of interaction between Jesus and Thomas. *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*
14. Spend some time praying that God would bolster your faith and help others discover his truth. End with the Easter greeting again – He is risen... He is risen indeed!