

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 5 April 2015

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Hope's Triumph

Introduction: This talk, given on Easter Day, reflects on the significance of the resurrection of Jesus today. The new resurrection life of Jesus, offers new life to the believer: specifically a life of forgiveness, of hope for the future and of friendship with the living Lord Jesus.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Reflect:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:17

Reflect:

Why is faith 'a delusion' if Jesus' resurrection never happened?

Christian faith places great emphasis on the death of Jesus: do people think the resurrection is sometimes overlooked or down-played? If so, what is the effect of that, and why might it happen?

Why would we still "be lost in our sins" if resurrection never happened? What answers were given in the talk and how do you react to them?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:20

Reflect:

Why might we doubt the possibility of resurrection beyond our own deaths?

How does Jesus' resurrection provide a 'guarantee' of resurrection?

In popular culture there is a strong belief in 'life beyond death', often expressed with terms such as 'becoming a star in the sky' or 'joining the angels'. Does Jesus' resurrection affirm or challenge these popular cultural notions?

Read: Matthew 28:20

Reflect:

On a scale of 0-10 (where 0=not at all and 10=very) how aware are people of Jesus' presence in everyday life?

What does it mean to people in the group that Jesus is with us 'for the whole of every day'?

Can anyone give a recent example of becoming aware of Jesus' presence?

How could we train ourselves to pay more attention to Jesus' presence in daily life?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

Respond:

Love for God

How does the resurrection of Jesus inspire our praise? Is there a song to sing - or listen to - on the theme of resurrection?

Love for one another

How can you encourage one another to become more aware of the risen Jesus accompanying you in everyday life?

Love for neighbour & world

If you were discussing faith with a non-Christian, how might you talk about the resurrection in ways that connect with them?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?