

Easter

AT CHURCH OF THE KING

Announcements

- *Vision – Awaken God's Purpose in Your Life* // A new 4-week series starting April 8.
- Small Group Semesters
 - 2018 Spring Semester ends May 5th.
 - Break // May 6–June 3 // No small group lessons avail.
 - 2018 Summer Semester // June 3–August 11

Warm-up

Who saw the movie called *The Passion of The Christ* and had trouble getting through the flogging and crucifixion of Jesus?

Word and Application

Today we are going to discuss how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus paid a price that no person could do in his or her own strength. Out of all the people that followed Jesus, only a handful stayed with him to the cross. One of the soldiers present at the crucifixion was not a follower of Jesus, but his eyes were opened and he realized the true identity of Jesus when he died.

Read Matthew 27:54

The Centurion realized the true identity of Jesus by revelation. What is the difference between having knowledge of something and revelation? Share with the group a time with God gave you a revelation through His Word, the Holy Spirit, a sermon message or experience.

Let's dive deeper into this message by asking and answering a few questions about Jesus death and resurrection.

1. Why did Jesus have to die?

Through Jesus' death on the cross, our wise God created a way for us to have the consequences of sin wiped away. The yearly sacrifices on behalf of Israel's sin were no longer required. The blood of animals only postponed the penalty of sin each year, but the blood of an innocent man had the power to forgive sin and

pay its penalty. How would you share this truth in simple terms to someone who had never heard the gospel?

Read Hebrews 10:19-20 and Hebrews 9:22. Why is the blood of Jesus so emphasized in these verses? What does it mean to you to be able to have a direct relationship with the Father and to *enter heaven's Most Holy Place*?

2. Why the resurrection?

God told Adam and Eve that they would die when they ate the fruit; this was a spiritual death, not a physical death. The resurrection restores the spirit of life, the oneness that Adam and Eve gave up on behalf of all mankind. Their choice to rebel came with a consequence. Today we can choose to surrender our life to Jesus who restores life and eternal freedom from the consequences of sin. How would you share this truth in simple terms to someone who had never heard the gospel?

Read Revelation 1:18, Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 15:17, and Romans 8:11, Which of these verses most resonate with you? Describe how empowering and comforting is it to know that the spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in you and strengthens you to overcome all that you face in this world.

Confidence in what God accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is what makes you a new creation. Putting faith in Jesus and believing you have been restored is the beginning of an intimate relationship with our Father God.

Read John 11:25 and 1 Peter 1:3.

How does understanding how God sees us through Jesus empower us to do all that Jesus did, and more?

What we speak and believe holds massive significance to God and have an impact on our present and future. We are given an option every day to improve our life by changing our thoughts and words. God's Word is the beginning of the journey of restoration that empowers us to do the miraculous.

Life Challenge

Pray and write a short paragraph that explains the gospel message (life, death, and resurrection) of Jesus. Be sure to use simple and clear words that can be understood by someone who has never read the Bible. Practice this gospel message with your small group host, someone in your group or friend. Finally, ask God for the opportunity to share with someone who needs to hear this truth.

Prayer

Thank you, Father, for providing all I need to be in right standing with you by believing in what you accomplished through Jesus. Lord, show me how I can share Jesus with people in my life and give me the boldness to do so. Pray for specific needs in your group.