

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 27, 2005

Passage: John 20:1-23

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:7

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 20:1-2.** How do most biographies end? How do *all* the gospels end? Why is this important?

(b) When did Mary come to the tomb? Why did she wait so long to come (John 19:42; Matthew 26:62; Mark 15:42)?

(c) Why do Christians *now* worship on Sundays rather than Saturdays (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2)?

(d) What would have been preventing Mary from getting to the body of Jesus (Matthew 27:60-66; Mark 15:46-16:3)? How was this obstacle removed (Matthew 28:1-2)?

(e) What had Jesus done for Mary that made her so intent on displaying her love for Jesus (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9)? What has Jesus done for you?

(f) *Family:* Read John 20:1-2 and Acts 21:7. Talk about why we worship on Sundays when the Jews honored Saturdays. When we come together as a church, what are we celebrating? Some would say that every Sunday is Easter. Discuss this together. Talk about how you can keep the focus on Christ's resurrection this Easter. Spend time thanking Jesus for what he has done for you.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 20:1-2.** Some have suggested that Mary could not find *the right tomb* because of the darkness. How does this passage demonstrate that Mary did not go to the wrong tomb?

(b) John 20 seems to suggest that Mary came alone. Compare this with Mark 16:1-4 and Luke 23:50-55. Did Mary come alone (John 20:2)?

(c) How would this answer claims that she went to the wrong tomb? What else do we learn from Matthew 27:59-61 and Luke 23:55-56?

(d) Others claim that the disciples stole the body. According to Matthew 27:62-66, what was done to prevent this? What actually happened (Matthew 28:11-15)?

(e) *Family:* Read the accounts in John 20:1-2. Talk about some of the ways that people have tried to disprove the resurrection. How can we answer them? Thank God for His Word which gives us evidence for the resurrection.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 20:3-10.** Did Mary initially believe that Jesus was risen? What did she think had happened?

(b) What did the other followers believe about the resurrection (Luke 24:10-12; 17-21)? How do these accounts lend credibility to the testimony of the witnesses?

(c) Who came to examine the tomb? What did they find? How is this proof of the resurrection?

(d) What was the initial response of Peter (John 20:8-9; Luke 24:12)? What was John's response?

(e) Why didn't they fully understand at this point (vs. 9; also Luke 24:44-45)? How did the resurrection affect their understanding of what they knew in the Scriptures (John 2:22; 16:21; 14:26)?

(f) *Family:* Read John 20:3-10 and Luke 24:36-43. What proof of the resurrection do we find in the gospels? Is proof necessary? Pray for someone you know whose eyes need to be opened to the truth of the gospel.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 20:11-18.** Why didn't Mary recognize Jesus at first? Why did Jesus tell Mary to "stop clinging" to him?

(b) What did he tell Mary to do? Consider the similar words spoken by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; and John 20:21. What is the primary concern of our Lord in each of these passages?

(c) Read Romans 10:9-13. What must a person do to be saved? Why is the resurrection essential (1 Corinthians 15:17)?

(d) What does the resurrection tell us about *who* Jesus is (Romans 1:4)? What had Jesus said about what he would do (John 2:19-21; Matthew 16:21; 20:19; 26:32)? What sign or proof had Jesus said would prove that He was the promised redeemer (Matthew 12:40)?

(e) If he did not rise from the dead, what would this tell us about him? Summarize the reasons that the resurrection is essential to the gospel message.

(f) *Family:* Read John 20:11-18 and Romans 10:9-13. Talk about how a person becomes a believer. What does it mean to "believe in your heart" and to "confess with your mouth"? Pray that the Lord would give each of you boldness to speak to others about the risen Savior.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 20:19-23.** What shows that these disciples could not have devised a *hoax* to trick people into believing that Jesus was risen? What additional evidence for the resurrection is found in these verses?

(b) What were the first words that Jesus spoke to his disciples? Why are these significant (Romans 5:1)? What are the second words spoken by Jesus (verse 21)? What is the significance of the order of these?

(c) In Acts 10:39-43, what did Peter say about the resurrection? What did he say about what God had commanded them to do?

(d) What is the ministry given by Jesus according to John 20:23 (also compare Luke 24:46-49; Acts 13:38; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)? Who can forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7)? How can we then forgive sins (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 1:27)?

(e) *Family:* Read John 20:19-23. Talk about what it would have been like to have Jesus appear to you. What would convince you that Jesus was really alive? How is the peace that Jesus gives? Thank the Lord for the peace that knowing Jesus provides to everyone who believes.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Why is the resurrection foundational to Christianity? Why do you think the resurrection has been attacked so much? What are the implications for us if Jesus had not risen? How can you answer some of the objections to the resurrection? How has the resurrection of Jesus affected your life?