



I AM Jesus: the Resurrection and the Life

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 16, 2017

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. What has Easter meant to you over your lifetime?
3. Read **John 11:1-44**. Discuss the possible feelings of Jesus, the disciples, Mary and Martha. How do you feel reading this passage? Remind each other of the implications of a body being left for 4 days in a grave (folklore = spirit has departed; decay has set in = stinking). Why does Jesus let Mary and Martha down?
4. Derek said "when you lost all hope for the present, you start sulking in the past." Like Martha, who saw the past in a way that was correct, but not complete, is there something in your past that has defined your present? Is there something that you blame Jesus for? Are there other stories in the Bible where people must walk through hard times in order for God to do something extraordinary? (i.e. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
5. Where in your life do you need to declare "EVEN NOW, Jesus"? Even now, all things are possible with the One who overcame the grave. Read **Mark 9:23-24**.
6. Derek's completed sentence was "Because Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, my past is untangled, my future is nailed down, and my present is renewed."
 - a. Read through these scriptures: **Romans 10:9; Acts 4:12; John 10:10; Romans 6:5-10;**
 - b. Encourage your group to think through each piece of this for themselves (taking time to allow everyone to write will encourage more sharing when everyone is done.)

Next Steps: Jesus is Risen. The tomb is empty. What does that mean in your life? Are you living a resurrected, abundant life through the power of the Holy Spirit? Consider what your next step is and ask the group to hold you accountable. (Possible group step- the upcoming series is called "Overcomers." Consider reading through Mark together to look at the miracles of Jesus.)

Prayer Thought: Pray the ACTS method with your group- praising Jesus for who He says that He is (Bread of Life, Door, Good Shepherd, Light of the World, the Way Truth Life, the True Vine, the Resurrection & the Life); confessing your unbelief; thanking Him for His great sacrifice, His love, and the gift of salvation; asking God for more understanding of who He is and for His best plan EVEN NOW in your lives.