

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passage: John 19:38-20:8

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. Read (aloud if you're willing) John 19-20:31.
 - a) What about this story would you NOT include if you were trying to make the disciples look like heroes 100 years after the fact [some even say today that the church made up these stories and wrote them down hundreds of years later]?
 - b) Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that he hasn't yet gone to heaven in v. 17? [Over the centuries and even today, many people believe Christians mean that Jesus went to heaven when they say he was resurrected. In other words, he didn't actually bodily rise from the grave.]
3. Check out Acts 2:22-29.
 - a) This is the same Peter who was with John at the empty tomb, and who denied Jesus three times just three nights before. Now—just a couple of months later—he is certain about what?
 - b) What is he challenging people to do?
 - c) How many ways could Jesus' enemies have stopped Christianity right there? What is your assessment about why they didn't?
4. How has the historical event of Jesus' resurrection changed your life? Share in your group about what it was like and how it happened that you first came to believe that Jesus actually did rise from the dead.
5. Spend some time in prayer thanking him that He did.



This Changes Everything

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April 4, 2010

If this really happened...

John 20:1-8

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

John 20:30-31

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

...it changes everything—then and now.

