

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus, thank You for the cross and the empty tomb, and that You came to find us when we could never get to You on our own. Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds as we enter our discussion, challenge our assumptions, and help us to truly encounter the risen Savior rather than just go through familiar motions. Convict us where we need to repent, remember, and believe, and give us the courage to take whatever next step of obedience You are calling us to. Thank You that He is risen indeed, Amen!

ICE BREAKER

What's one concert or live event you've been to where you thought, "These people are really into this," and how did that compare to what it felt like the first time you experienced passionate worship at Northview?

SERMON OVERVIEW



[SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP](#)



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SERMON CLIP](#)

In our Easter message, Pastor CJ challenges us to move beyond the familiarity of the resurrection story and encounter its life-transforming message and power afresh. Drawing from Luke's gospel account, we're reminded that the women who came to Jesus's tomb prepared spices for a dead body, but found something completely unexpected—an empty tomb and a living Savior. This pattern of being prepared yet unprepared captures the essence of following Christ: He is predictably unpredictable, always exceeding our expectations and flipping our paradigms. The resurrection isn't just about what happened 2,000 years ago; it's about what continues to happen today. Jesus didn't wait in the tomb for people to find Him—He went out and found them, meeting Mary in a garden, appearing to disciples behind locked doors, walking alongside grieving followers on the road to Emmaus, and restoring Peter on a beach. This is the heart of the gospel: we don't find God through our own achievement or searching; God finds us. The stone in front of the empty tomb wasn't rolled away so Jesus could get out, but so we could get in. When we grasp that death couldn't defeat Jesus, we realize nothing can defeat us.

READ SCRIPTURE

LUKE 24:1-12

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) What does it mean to you that Jesus took your place on the cross? How does it make you feel? Why is it important to personalize your responsibility?
- 2) Pastor CJ highlighted that Mary Magdalene—with a painful, difficult and well-known past—became the first messenger of the resurrection (Luke 24:10). How does that make you feel about your own past and your sense of worth or “qualification” to be used by God as one of his messengers?
- 3) Pastor CJ emphasized the importance of maintaining awe and wonder. When was the last time you experienced genuine wonder or awe? How might cultivating wonder change your daily perspective and relationship with God?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Pastor CJ emphasized that Jesus finds us rather than us finding Him. How does this differ from other religious or philosophical approaches, and what does it mean for your relationship with God? How might this understanding shift your approach and your relationship with others who are seeking or exploring faith?

5) Peter wondered about the strips of linen left behind in the tomb. What details or evidence about the resurrection do you find most compelling, thought-provoking or challenging? How do the claims about eyewitnesses and careful historical investigation (like Luke's) shape your intellectual view of Christianity? How has God met you as you have sought Him and wondered?

6) Jesus repeatedly predicted both his death and resurrection to his disciples, yet they were still surprised when it happened. What does this tell us about the nature of faith and belief, even when we have information beforehand?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) What is one assumption that you have about God, Christian faith or your own spiritual journey that you might need to consider allowing God to challenge? How can you spend time this week seeking His truth in this area?

8) How does believing that "death is no longer a dead end but a passage" change the way you live today? In what practical ways can this truth help you "face tomorrow"? How can we share that hope practically with others in how we live?

9) Mary Magdalene, "went and told" the disciples, despite her past. Who is one person in your life you sense God might be prompting you to share your faith or Easter hope with? What specific action will you take this week to "go and tell" them—conversation, invitation, prayer, or something else?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

The Northview App Bible Reading Plan - We are encouraging and challenging individuals and groups to consider building a new habit of engagement in the Northview Daily Devotional and Bible Reading Plan. It is designed with intentionality 5 days a week to prepare our hearts for the upcoming weekend message of the highlighted Biblical figure. Consider starting a group chat to discuss it daily this week.