

Encounter these verses today:

Circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side

Matthew 28:1-10, NIV

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



Has there been a moment that you were **terrified** and **excited** at the same time? *Explain ...*

What does the resurrection of Jesus do for you ...

Investigate it with us by reading Matthew 28:1-10

The Bottom Line ...

Embracing the pain of Jesus ... and the resurrection of Jesus ... results in pure gratitude and awe for what he has done!

How Can I Express My Gratitude To Jesus Today?



Digging Deeper | 2010

[April 4 - April 10]

Monday: 4.05.2010

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Can you imagine it. Being around the One you've been waiting for your entire life ... the Messiah? You were given a front row seat to his life, his teaching, his miracles, and now his resurrection! Sure, you've paid close attention to his words before ... but now, you can't move without them! He is alive! He really is alive!!

Think about it:

What do we do with the resurrection of Jesus? What did Jesus tell us to do? How can you "go" this week?

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 4.06.2010

Reading: 24:13-35

Today's reading is longer than normal. It's a great story of Jesus meeting with some of his friends and allowing them to tell the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection. They had no idea who they were walking with but Jesus didn't condemn for their lack of faith ... instead he unlocked it for them!

Think about it:

How amazing would it be to sit and list to Jesus "explain the scriptures and how it related to him" (27). What questions would you have for him?

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 4.07.2010

Reading: Luke 24:36-49

The Jesus of the Gospels was just like any normal human. He walked, he used doors, and he ate. This resurrected Jesus, though he is completely human, also has authority to move in new ways and seems to enjoy surprising his friends by appearing suddenly and frightening them a little. I think he's smiling the whole time!

Think about it:

The resurrected Jesus did some new things ... but he also began to "open the minds" of his friends (45). Before he death, he would speak and they couldn't understand everything. Now, Jesus is really helping them put it all together!

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 4.08.2010

Reading: John 20:24-29

We have all doubted before. We've doubted things about Jesus - we've doubted things about each other. Doubt is a strong emotion that is common to everyone. Thomas, for some reason, had been given an extra dose of it as a child and in his mind, he could not comprehend Jesus' resurrection. Pastor Steve will be sharing the power of believing on Sunday.

Think about it:

Be honest with yourself ... where is doubt still ruling in your mind? Where has faith and belief taken over?

Reflections: _____

Friday: 4.09.2010

Reading: John 20:15-19

Peter had blown it. He thought he was the best disciple with the strongest commitment to Jesus. But when things got challenging and Jesus was going to the cross, Peter bailed and left Jesus all alone. Guilt. Shame. Humiliation. Doubt in himself. This once strong man is now broken and feeling useless.

Think about it:

Can you identify with Peter? When Jesus forgives him, he gives him a brand new chance ... "Follow me" he says. He offers that same opportunity for you, too! Today, he is speaking to you, "Do you love me? Then follow me!"

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 4.10.2010

Reading: John 20:20-24

This journey of faith is a crazy ride! It will lead us down paths of great joy and happiness - it will also present moments of great sadness and pain. Peter looked at John and wanted to compare their experiences with Christ. We all do that, don't we? We look at others and wonder why they get all the breaks ... or why their life seems so easy. Comparing our life - our journey - with others is very dangerous. Christ works everything out for our good - for every one of us.

Think about it:

How have you been comparing your faith journey with others? Ask the Lord to help you to stop ... and trust Him for what He has for you. He is faithful.

Reflections: _____
