



# EASTER

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### SERMON RECAP

In his Easter sermon, Matt Allman emphasized the significance of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a transformative force in people's lives. He shared the story of Lazarus from John 11, emphasizing Jesus' compassion in human suffering and His power to bring life from death. Matt invited everyone to experience renewal through faith in Jesus and highlighted the importance of baptism as a next step. He encouraged all of us to return for next few weeks as we start a new series, *Aftermath*, to further explore how Jesus continues to impact lives following His resurrection.

### GET STARTED

- **Share a memorable Easter story or moment. If a story doesn't come to mind, then what is your favorite Easter candy?**

### TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

### TALK IT OVER

**Read John 11:17-37**

- This past weekend Matt talked about how we are “marked by death”. Many times “death” in the New Testament is a metaphor or language used to describe any time we are wounded in life as we walk through a broken world. It can refer to emotional pain, life circumstances, or spiritual feelings of inadequacy. **How does this concept of being “marked by death” impact our daily lives? Can you think of a specific time in your life when you felt “marked by death”, and how you found hope or healing during that time?**
- In John 11:25-26, Jesus makes a powerful statement filled with hope, *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”* **What do you think this means for someone who believes in Him? In what ways should the reality of the resurrection change our lives? How has it changed yours since you first believed?**

- John 11:35 is one of the shortest and emotionally charged passages of Scripture revealing that Jesus wept. **Why do you think Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb even though He knew He could bring him back to life? What does his display of deep emotion teach you about Jesus?**

#### **Read John 11:38-44**

- Martha makes 2 professions of faith saying that God will give Jesus whatever He asks (v. 22) and that He is the son of God (v. 27). But, in v. 39 she doubts Jesus' plan, and tells them not to move the stone. While it is easy to highlight Martha for her doubts, we should see ourselves in her. **In what ways can you relate with Martha's doubts? When have you thought God's plan for your life was unclear, unreasonable, or difficult to accept?**
- Sometimes, God asks us to move a stone, but we would rather keep it in place due to fear or doubts. But, the stone had to be moved for God to reveal his power in resurrection. **Is there a stone in your life that God is asking you to move? What could you do to counteract the doubts that rush into your mind when God asks you to "move a stone"? In what ways could you begin turning your fear-driven doubts into hopeful anticipation?**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 51-57**

- Jesus has victory over death! Through Him we can overcome death, the effects of sin, and know that we will be raised to live with Christ in eternity. Because of the promised resurrection, we can say death is not the end. We can have hope. **In what ways does the promised resurrection change the way you view your life today? Your death? In what ways does the hope of new and eternal life change the way you view your difficulties today?**
- At the end of his message, Matt unpacked the idea of repenting and being baptized as actions that signify a commitment to Jesus and the life He offers. **If you have taken this step of faith, what are one or two things that moved you towards the decision to follow Jesus? If you haven't taken this step, what are one or two questions you have about following Jesus?**

#### **LIVE IT OUT**

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. We are not just covered in grace and forgiven of sins, but invited into a personal relationship with God. Through this relationship, God wants to redeem and transform our lives. This is a life long process as a follower of Jesus fueled by the hope of completing the journey in eternity. But, until then, we are still in process. **For the rest of the year, what is the one area of your relationship with God that you want to develop? How are you going to intentionally work with God to grow in this area?**

**Memorize:** *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"* **John 11:25-26**