

Small Group Curriculum • Easter



REMINDERS

- Interested in being baptized the Sunday after Easter? Sign up at <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/baptisms/>

Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

WARM UP

- How did you celebrate Easter on Sunday?
- What was your highlight at Easter services on Sunday?

INTRODUCTION

The Easter story tends to be a narrative most Christians are familiar with. Due to this familiarity, the narrative can lose its powerful impact on our hearts. Therefore, for this session we will have each small group member take time to journal on their own, following the prompts listed below.

To begin, read together John 20:1-18 and then provide paper and the questions to each group member for their individual work.

*NOTE: consider playing some soft, instrumental music in the background during the personal reflection and journaling sections.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

STAGE 1 (Observation, "What does this passage say?") Have members individually take notes responding to the following questions about the passage (7-8 minutes):

- Who are the people in this passage?
- How are these people like people in my world?

A W A K E N I N G

- What characteristics in myself do I see represented in these people?
- What is the setting of this passage?
- What are the significant details in the history, culture, and geography?
- What are the similarities to my world?
- What is happening in this passage?
- What is the conflict or tension?
- What would I have done in this situation?
- How is this similar to what is happening in my life or in the world today?

DISCUSS: Regroup and together share an key insights in this observation section (3-4 minutes).

STAGE 2 (Interpretation, “What does this passage mean?”) Have members individually take notes responding to the following questions about the passage (7-8 minutes):

- What was the intended message for the original audience?
- What did the people of the passage learn?
- What did God want them to do?
- What was God’s solution to the problem?
- What is the message for all of humankind?
- What are the timeless truths?
- What is the moral of the story?

DISCUSS: Regroup and together share an key insights in this observation section (3-4 minutes).

STAGE 3 (Application, “What should I do?”) Have members individually take notes responding to the following questions about the passage (7-8 minutes):

- What does this principle mean for my society and culture?
- How is this relevant?
- What back then is similar to today?
- How can I make the timeless truth timely?
- What does this truth mean for me?
- Where are my areas of need, conviction, and opportunity?
- Where in my life might this truth possibly apply?
- How should I adjust my priorities?
- What should I change about my values, beliefs, attitudes, or characteristics?
- What about my thoughts and motives should change?
- What kind of person does God want me to become?
- What does God want me to do about what I have learned?
- What steps will get me to that goal?
- What should be my first step? How can I get started?

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DISCUSS: Regroup and together share an key insights in this observation section (3-4 minutes).

APPLICATION

- Is there are common theme or application that God may be asking us to take as a group?
- How can we encourage one another in taking this step?

PRAYER

Ask each member to share any prayer requests they may have, then spending time taking your praise, confessions, thanksgivings, and requests to God.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.

PASSAGES:

John 20:1-18

20 Early 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. ² So 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!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked inat the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

AWAKENING

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.