

Study Guide



Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20 - Resurrection Commands

April 1, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

Today we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The message of the Bible is that God created humanity to display His glory all over this earth as they lived out their lives on earth in humble trusting obedience to God. However, we all fail to fully trust God so we fail to fully obey Him and fail to fully display His glory in our lives. So, God came to earth as a man, Jesus, lived the perfect life that we couldn't live, gave his life on the cross to take our punishment for our sin, and he rose from the grave and ascended back to heaven. He promises those who trust in him as the crucified and resurrected Lord, to forgive their sins, to give them life that transcends death, and to live eternally with him and enjoy the perfect life on earth to his glory forever. That is the Christian message and the resurrection validates this message and gives us confidence in this hope.

Action Step

Discuss with your group any fears and doubts you have about sharing the gospel. Investigate these fears and doubts with one another and scripture. Then go and tell others about your Lord knowing that He is with you always. Visit the "Gospel Resources" section for resources.

Calendar

March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 4th- April 15th— Kids Shine
April 22nd— Baptism Training
May 6th— Member's Meeting
June 11th-16th— Youth Camp

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Glorious Day](#)":

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb
Till I met You

I was breathing, but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb
Till I met You

You called my name
And I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness
Into Your glorious day

You called my name
And I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness
Into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all I know
The old made new
Jesus, when I met You

You called my name
And I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness
Into Your glorious day

You called my name
And I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness
Into Your glorious day

I needed rescue
My sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter
I was an orphan
But You call me a citizen of heaven
When I was broken
You were my healing
Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future
My eyes are open

You called my name
And I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness
Into Your glorious day

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Commentary: Read Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20

On Sunday Pastor Tracy looked at three resurrection encounters found in the Matthew's gospel chapter 28. The first is the two Mary's with the angel of the Lord at the empty tomb (v.1-7). The second is their encounter with the resurrected Jesus as they're running to Galilee to tell others (v. 8-10). The third is when Jesus met with the eleven disciples in Galilee (v.16-20). In these three encounters we see some similarities and we can see a pattern. In each of these encounters we see three commands repeated: Do not be afraid. Come and See. Go and Tell.

Do not be afraid (v. 5, 10, 17; John 20:24-26)

In all of these verses we see the idea to not be afraid. The two Mary's were filled with fear as they were seeking the resurrected Jesus. The women were afraid as the resurrected Jesus met them along the way to Galilee and some of the disciples doubted (John 20:24-26), they feared that what they were seeing and hearing was not true, when Jesus appeared to them on mountain in Galilee. All three encounters show fear and doubt at the resurrection of Jesus. This is very common for us today, many people fear and doubt the resurrection of Jesus. You find yourself wanting to believe that Jesus rose from the grave and wanting to believe Jesus will forgive your sins and give you new life and eternal life. But every time you start to believe and start to allow yourself to imagine being a follower of Christ you encounter fear and doubts. This means you are seriously considering the claims of Christ. But as we see next, what matters most is what we do with our doubts and fears.

Come and See (v. 6, 9-10, 17; John 20:27-28)

The two Mary's with the angel are not chastised for their fear. They are invited to come and see the place where he lay. In this case the come and see was an invitation to consider the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. They got to go into the tomb to examine the evidence. So, here again we see their response to fear was to come to Jesus and not run from Jesus. In this case they encountered the resurrected Jesus and they did what always happens when someone truly encounters the resurrected Jesus – they hit their knees and worshiped him. Jesus' presence overcame their fears. And to those who doubted we look at Thomas in John 20 and see Thomas encountered the resurrected Jesus full of pride and doubts and Jesus met him right where he was and Thomas did what everyone does when they have a true encounter with the resurrected Jesus, he worshiped him, "My Lord and my God!" For some of us we need to investigate our fears and doubts further, we need read scripture and pray that God will help us see the truth. Some of us need to run to Jesus. We need to admit our sin and rebellion and worship Him. Let Him cast out your fears and doubts as you praise him for dying on the cross for your sin and as you worship him as the resurrected Lord and Savior! This leads us to the final command we see in each of these encounters.

Go and Tell (v. 7, 10, 18-20)

Looking again at the two Mary's with the angel of the Lord we see the Angel say, "go and tell... (vs. 7)." Through the angel, the Lord calls the fearful doubting ladies to himself and he addresses their fears and doubts and then he sends them out to tell others that Jesus has risen from the dead and he promises Jesus' presence. In the second encounter where Jesus meets the ladies on their way to Galilee (vs 10). Jesus said to them, "go and tell..." The resurrected Jesus meets the fearful ladies where they are and he calms their fears and doubts as they worship him. And then He sends them out. And He promises his own presence with them as they go and tell. Finally, in the third encounter where Jesus meets his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20 we see the same command, "go... I am with you always..." Again, Jesus meets the disciples and the doubters where they are but he doesn't leave them there. Jesus sends them out to share the good news of his resurrection and he promises to be with them as they are going. This is what Jesus wants to do with you. He meets you where you are and calms your fears and doubts as you worship Him. Then He sends us out to share this joy with others with His promise that He is with us and we are not alone.

Discussion - Read Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20

1. What takeaways impressed you, convicted you, or encouraged you from Tracy's sermon this past Sunday?
2. In verses 1-10 who were the first women to come to the Jesus' tomb? When did they arrive at the tomb, and what was their purpose?
3. What things about the scene at the tomb would have made them surprised and afraid?
4. In verses 5-7 what three things did the angel ask the women to do?
5. In verses 8-10 the two Mary's had a second resurrection encounter. This time instead of being surprised by an angel, they were surprised by Jesus, himself. How were their actions and Jesus instructions similar to what happened in the first resurrection encounter?
6. Read verses 16-20 which is the 3rd resurrection encounter related in Matthew chapter 28. This occasion happened nearly 40 days after the day of resurrection. Were the disciples all in agreement about Jesus's resurrection at this time nearly 40 days later? How were Jesus' words to them similar to the first two encounters in this chapter?
7. How did Jesus indirectly address their fears and doubts in this encounter?
8. How do the recurring themes of "do not be afraid", "come and see", and "go and tell" also apply to contemporary people who have doubts and fears about the resurrected Jesus?

9. What are some ways that contemporary doubters can “come and see” the claims of Jesus associated with the Resurrection?

10. What are some practical ways you can “go and tell?”

11. Please discuss among your community group members why you believe in the Resurrection and what is the significance of the Resurrection.

Gospel Resources

1. **Sharing your faith (Article):** (<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>)
2. **Life Conversation Guide (Video):** (<https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide>)
3. **Questions about Sharing your Faith (Article):** (<https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/>)
4. **Everyone You Meet Will Live Forever (Article):**(<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/everyone-you-meet-will-live-forever>)
5. **Download the “Life On Mission” App for all iOS and Android devices. This app helps teach and walk you through the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide.**

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach