



## LIVE FORWARD

Happy Easter!!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some simple instructions, as well as the continuation of the questions, on page 2, and this week's Group Practice Suggestion on page 3.

April 4, 2021

"Live Forward"

Luke 24:1-14

## HAPPY EASTER!!

### Questions to use with your group:

- ▶ Let's spend a few moments processing Lent and our arrival to Easter. What did God teach you or awaken your heart towards through practices of prayer and fasting, or as you celebrated the joy of Easter?
- ▶ [Leader Note – This next question may not be one to ask your group so give thought as you prepare. The hope of the question is to give space to those who might need to process or share thoughts of grief, especially in light of the pandemic and thoughts the sermon intro might have created. Small groups can be one of the few spaces one has for this but use your discretion here).

Pastor Bryan began the Easter message from the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and mentioned the famous literary names who have been laid to rest there. Cemeteries bring a lot of feelings and memories to us – is there anything you would like to share with our group here?

- ▶ Read Luke 24:1-14 and try to put yourself in the place of the women coming to put spices on Jesus' body. As Bryan mentioned, they have no category or concept that Jesus's body may not be there and people of that time period were not expecting the type of resurrection as understand it today. What do you imagine your reaction to be? And then there were angels explaining it to you. How would you have responded to that?!?

## How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- If your group is new this Lent, take some time during each meeting to get to know one another.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another, and be sure to set aside time for prayer.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question. Pick two or three that you think will be fruitful for your group, and invite people to reflect on those.
- Use the weekly Group Practice Suggestions (found on page 3) if they are helpful for your group.
- You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.

## Questions, cont.

- ▶ The Resurrection story can become so familiar and routine that we trivialize its power. And it can be so surreal and transcendent that we miss its personal connection to us. How can we live out the truth of Easter that appreciates its power and allow it to transform us personally?
- ▶ Meditate on the following quote Bryan gave – what does it mean to you?
 

“So what does Easter MEAN? It means GRAVEYARDS really can become GARDENS. Graves are about the PAST. Gardens are about the FUTURE. Graves are where things CEASE. Gardens are where things GROW. So those architects weren't far off when they imagined “a garden of the living.” So Mary wasn't mistaken when she took Jesus for the gardener. Because GRAVES become GARDENS when we INVITE Christ into the story. When we LEAVE the past behind and follow a RISEN Jesus to NEW, BETTER, and ETERNAL life.”
- ▶ In light of a meaningful Lent and a beautiful Easter, can you give one word truths that you are taking with as you live forward?
- ▶ Let's spend some time praying, thanking God for the life and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus, and asking that He will guide us in the coming days.