**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT***

* *What is one of your favorite Easter memories or traditions?*
* *Growing up, was Easter an important holiday for your family? Is it now?*

***DIGGING DEEPER***

* *Read Luke 23:44-56. Summarize the events described from the women’s point of view.*
* *Read Luke 24:1-12. Have you ever had to deal with the death of a close friend or relative? Look at verses 1-5, putting yourself in these women’s shoes. What do we know about their relationship with Jesus? (See Luke 8:1-3 for more background.) How has Jesus’ death seemed to affect them?*
* *What are the women hoping to do once they reach Jesus’ tomb? What do you imagine they are thinking and talking about on the way?*
* *As the women arrive at the tomb they find that Jesus’ body is gone and two men in clothes that gleamed like lightening are there. The strange men explain things more fully in verses 6-8. What does Luke mean by “then they remembered his words” (verse 8)? What had caused the women to forget Jesus’ words? What helps them remember and believe now?*
* *In verses 9-11, the women return to the apostles to share what they had seen and heard. How did the women expect the apostles to respond? How do they respond? What does the apostles’ response tell us about how the apostles have regarded Jesus’ words?*
* *In verse 12, why does Peter get up and run to the tomb? How does he respond differently from the other ten apostles? Why?*
* *What are Peter’s options of what to believe once he sees the tomb? What could prevent him, even at this point, from believing in Jesus’ resurrection? Based on the last sentence, which option do you think he chose?*

***DISCUSS***

* *Do you believe that the things Jesus promises will actually happen? When you encounter words of Jesus that are difficult to believe, how do you respond…*
	+ *Forget them, as the women did initially?*
	+ *Believe, act and bear witness as the women did after their encounter with the messengers?*
	+ *Disregard them as ten of the apostles did?*
	+ *Insist on finding out for yourself, as Peter did?*
* *What things block you from believing Jesus’ words? Do you really believe them? How will you act on them?*

**180-Day Guided Tour of the Bible**

**Reading Plan for Week of April 1st**

**Day 121 –** Matthew 18: Out of Bondage

**Day 122 –** John 10: No Secrets

**Day 123 –** Mark 8: Turning Point

**Day 124 –** Mark 9: Slow Learners

**Day 125 –** Luke 10: Mission Improbable

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email update from Wave! **Consider EASTER | Wave Church SD**

April 1, 2018

**1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)** *14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS THE ONLY PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR CHRISTIANITY

**CONSIDER…**

* CHRISTIANITY STILL EXISTS
* CHRISTIANITY MAKES A FOOTNOTE OF GREAT HISTORICAL FIGURES
* CHRISTIANITY DOES NOT FOLLOW THE NORMAL PATTERN OF RELIGION

**PROBLEM #1:** JESUS’ MESSAGE DIDN'T ADVOCATE FOR LIBERATION OR REVOLUTION

**Luke 23:3-5 (ESV)** *3**And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” 5 But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”*

**PROBLEM #2:** JESUS’ MESSAGE CENTERED ON JESUS,
NOT HIS TEACHINGS.

**Matthew 16:13-16 (ESV)** *13**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

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

**THREE OPTIONS:** JESUS IS A LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD

 **John 20:1-2 (NIV)** *1**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!”*

**Luke 24:9-11 (NIV)** *9**When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.*

**John 20:3-8 (NIV)** *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 in at 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.*

**Acts 3:15 (NIV)** *15**and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.*

**1 Corinthians 15:6 (ESV)** *6**Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

**Acts 2:38 (NIV)** *38**And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**CONSIDER…** YOU CAN KNEEL NOW; YOU CAN KNEEL LATER. BUT YOU WILL KNEEL TO JESUS AS THE RESURRECTED LORD.

**Philippians 2:8-11 (ESV)** *8**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*