



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

03/27/2016

The resurrection indicates a decisive moment for humanity. How the resurrection of Jesus effects our relationship with God has been a central topic within the church for over 2000 years. Over the next 5 weeks we will join that discussion.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. From Sunday's message, how did the imagery of the cross and the stain of our sin affect your understanding of the Easter event?

Read Luke 24.

2. This chapter discusses Jesus' appearances after his resurrection. What does Jesus identify as the purpose of his death and resurrection?
3. How does Jesus demonstrate that this event was foretold and that the disciples should have expected it? Write down the verses that support your answer.
4. The disciples mention that they had hope Jesus was the "one to redeem Israel." What does the word 'redeem' mean? How does it change our status before God? (consider Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14)
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Redemption results in reconciliation. What happens in this act of reconciliation? What are the effects? It's purpose? How is it accomplished?

6. Sin is a loaded word that often conjures up negative imagery. Is anything lost in our understanding of its gravity when words like 'mistake,' or 'imperfect,' or 'missing the mark' are used?

7. Sin, or transgression, requires judgment. In other words, breaking a law requires that a penalty be paid. However, what does Romans 6:23 say is the penalty of sin? If this penalty has to be enforced, how does the death of Jesus affect the penalty that is due to us? (cf. Romans 6:1-11)

8. *The Inescapable Story* draws attention to the sacrificial nature of Jesus Christ on our behalf. His act is substitutionary; he steps into our place. Church answers aside, do think this was necessary? Why or why not?

9. Because of Jesus' substitutionary act, those who turn to God and place faith in the work of Jesus are no longer considered enemies of God. Instead they have been reconciled with him. What is the result of reconciliation? Write down some of the benefits.

10. Having a restored relationship with God is one result of forgiveness—peace with God. How might this change of status with God affect daily life? What hope does it offer?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus as savior implies one's need to be saved. This week requires an honest assessment of self and a greater understanding of Jesus. He does more than set an example, he sets us right with God by taking upon himself our penalty. In prayer and meditation, ask God to reveal these truths in a personal way.