

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

March 26/27, 2016; Easter Weekend

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: Luke 24:1-2,9-12

Note To Leaders:

This Easter weekend we discussed the power of the resurrection because of the empty tomb. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: What is your favorite Easter memory?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways does the story of the empty tomb still speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Mark said repeatedly, "Make a beeline for the cross and run to the tomb." What does an empty tomb symbolize to you? How is the resurrection personal for you?
2. Are there areas/situations in your life that you need to take to the empty tomb? Do you find it easier to make a beeline to the cross in desperation or run to the tomb with hope?
3. Luke 24 1-2,9-12 tells us of the women were the first to see the empty tomb. Everyone else disregarded what they were saying except Peter, who ran to the tomb. What is your reaction? Why did the other disciples ignore what the women were saying? Who can you relate to the most?
4. Pastor Mark said that just like the Key of Keys existed from General Braddock in order to symbolize a coordinate point for the city, so too can Jesus serve as our Key of Keys. He is how we survey every situation we encounter. What reframing can you do in your life to make everything measured by the foundational coordinates of Jesus? Is Jesus serving as the Key of Keys in your life? If not, what are some steps you can take to make him the Key of Keys?

5. John 10:10 says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Have you ever thought about the Lord having a plan for you and the enemy having a plan for you? So, if God and the enemy have a plan for your life, where do you need to pick up your sword? What are you doing to fight the battle? What are some ways you can actively go against any threshold of the enemy? What does it mean to fight back with words of faith and songs of praise daily?

6. Pastor Mark shared a story of another NCCer who had a revelation from the Lord about the lions in her life. He said that she learned the only thing that silences a lion’s roar is the roar of a more powerful lion because roars symbolize dominance. What lions are you facing? Are some of them posing as a façade? Which lion is the loudest in your life?

7. Do you ever feel like you are the one trapped or entangled in the lion cage and everyone else around you is free? How can the resurrection change your perspective?

Challenge:

Pastor Mark challenged us in the conclusion saying, “God made his move in the death and resurrection that all who believe will have everlasting life.” Now, the question is, what’s your move going to be? If you are already a believer, what areas do you need to make a move in? What are some pre-moves you can make in order to grow more in your faith? Challenge yourself to start living today with the resurrection at the forefront of your mind. It will change how you think, what you do, and give you hope for tomorrow.

Read, Pray, Act:

Read and pray through these verses this week about being more than a conqueror in Christ:

- 1 John 4:4
- Romans 8:31-39
- James 4:7
- John 10:28