

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 8, 2007

Passage: Matthew 28:1-15

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:17

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 27:55-61.** Who followed the body to the tomb (Luke 8:2-3)? What had these women done for Jesus during his life?
- (b) Compare Luke 23:27-34. For whom were they weeping? Whom did Jesus tell them to weep for? Why?
- (c) Mary Magdalene is mentioned 12 times in the gospels. Look quickly at each of these references: Matthew 27:56, 61; Matthew 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; Mark 16:1, 9; Luke 24:10; John 19:25; 20:1; 20:18. Do any of them indicate a special relationship between Mary Magdalene and Jesus besides her being a disciple?
- (d) What do Luke 8:2-3 and Mark 16:9 tell us about these other women? Read John 19:25-27. What was Jesus' final concern?
- (e) What details about the tomb do we learn from this passage? Make a list of them.
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 27:55-61 and Luke 8:1-3. Talk about how Jesus changes people lives. Share together about how knowing Jesus has changed your life. How did these women participate in Jesus' ministry? How are you participating in his ministry today? Pray that God will grant you opportunities to demonstrate your gratitude for all Jesus has done for you.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 27:62-66.** What was important about the Day of Preparation (John 19:31)? What procedure was followed to insure that the person was dead? What proof did they have (John 19:32-37)? How did this fulfill Scripture? How is the fulfillment of Scripture a greater confirmation of the resurrection?
- (b) What did the chief priests call Jesus? Where had they spoken this about him before (John 7:11-13; 7:45-52)?
- (c) What particular words were they concerned about (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:61, etc)?
- (d) What particular concern did the religious leaders have? How would such a "deception" affect the people?
- (e) How is the prophecy of Jesus before the resurrection another confirmation of his resurrection? Why don't people believe in the resurrection (Luke 16:27-31)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 27:62-66 and Luke 16:27-31. Discuss the importance of prophecy and the resurrection. What did the officials fear would happen? How did they prevent this? How do these facts support the reality of the resurrection of Jesus? Pray for someone that does not know Jesus. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 28:1-4.** What natural event occurred at the resurrection? Did this roll away the stone?
- (b) How is the angel described in this passage (Mark 16:5; Acts 1:10)?
- (c) At what events do we find angels in the gospels (Luke 1:11, 26; 2:9-13; Matthew 1:20-24; Luke 22:43; John 5:4; Matthew 4:11)?
- (d) What effect did this have on the soldiers? How does this explain what how the women were able to get to the tomb?
- (e) What is the role of the angels related to believers (Hebrews 1:14)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 28:1-4 and John 20:6-7. What are some reasons people give for not believing in the resurrection of Jesus? Discuss each of these and talk about why these could not possibly be true. Spend some time praising God for the resurrection.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 28:5-10.** What is the reaction of the women? Is this normal (Luke 1:12-13)?
- (b) Why should believers not fear (Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 41:14; Psalm 46:1-2)?
- (c) What did the angel invite them to do (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:12; Luke 24:22-24; John 20:4-9)? What evidence was examined by the disciples? What does this tell us about the reality of the resurrection?
- (d) Was the tomb completely empty (John 20:6-7)? How does this add credibility to the resurrection?
- (e) What does Jesus tell them to do? What did they do (Exodus 34:14)? What does this tell us about the *deity* of Jesus?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 10:5-10 and John 20:6-7. Discuss worship. Who alone deserves our worship? Why do we worship Jesus? Would we worship him if he had not risen from the dead? Why do we worship primarily on Sunday mornings? Spend some time worshipping Jesus as the Lord of the universe who has conquered both sin and death!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matthew 28:11-15.** Did the chief priests know what really happened? How did they find out? What does this tell us about them? Why would they not believe or at least check it out?
- (b) What story did they devise to undermine the resurrection? What are some of the problems with their story?
- (c) What was normally done to guards who were not faithful in watching guard (Acts 12:19; Acts 16:27)?
- (d) Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-7. What evidence did Paul offer to the resurrection of Jesus?
- (e) What conclusions did Paul make if Jesus did not rise from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)? Make a list of these.
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 28:11-15. How important is evidence to Christianity? What if the bones of Jesus were found? What impact would that have on your faith? What evidences can you give that Jesus really has risen from the dead? Pray that you might have an opportunity to talk with someone about the message of Easter tomorrow.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Matthew 28:1-15. Where was Jesus buried? How would this fact make the tomb easily identifiable? What was the concern of the leaders and what did they do to prevent this from happening? How does this increase the credibility of the resurrection? What would be true if Jesus was not risen from the dead. Pray for the celebration of the resurrection this morning. Pray that someone who does not know Jesus might come to faith in the risen Savior today!

DATE: April 8, 2007

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The Empty Tomb

“He is not here. He has risen, just as He said ...”