

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

“Easter: What Difference Does the Resurrection Make?”

Acts 4

April 19-20, 2014

For Starters

1. What did you hear in this week’s message that raised a question or caught your attention?
2. Would you follow Jesus if He was not raised from the dead, why or why not?

Digging In

1. Read the story of the lame man in Acts 3:1-10.
 - What do we know about him from the text? See also Acts 4:22.
 - What can we assume from the facts (lame from birth, begging etc.)?
2. Peter’s second sermon in Jerusalem follows the lame man’s healing explaining, how and who healed him.
 - What does Peter say about that? See Acts 3:11-20.
 - What does Peter call them to do in response to the message and what does he say will happen? See Acts 3:19.
 - Why does Peter mention in Acts 22-26 that Jesus’ suffering was talked about by Moses and the prophets?
 - How did the people respond to his message? Read Acts 4:4.
3. Acts 4 recounts Peter and John’s arrest. Why did the religious leaders throw them in jail? Read Acts 4:2. Did their question in Acts 4:7 reflect the real issue?
4. When the religious leaders released Peter and John they went back to the church to report their threats. What did they pray for and how did God answer that prayer? See Acts 4:29-31.
5. The resurrection is changing those who believe it:
 - Acts 3:16
The lame man walks - despair is replaced with unbounded joy.
 - Acts 4:13
Peter courageously preaches Jesus -fear is replaced with new power. (He just denied even knowing Jesus to a young servant girl days before.)
 - Acts 4:32-37
The church is generously living out the good news - unbelief is replaced with faith in Jesus. (Note the change Barnabas’ life. See Acts 4:36-37.)

Bringing it home:

1. The religious leaders weren’t changed because they didn’t believe the message - why not? Was it their own “goodness,” a lack of information, or was Jesus a threat to their position and power? What do you think and more importantly where are you at? What difference is the resurrection of Christ making in your life?
2. Which characteristic is strongest in you and which is weakest: the lame man’s joy, Peter’s boldness, or the church’s generosity?
3. Do you believe the truth Peter proclaimed in Acts 4:12? See also Jesus’ words in John 14:6.

Prayer: End your time together praying through the church’s prayer in Acts 4:24-30.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org.