

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF APRIL 13, 2009

**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS**

**The Resurrection Changes Everything**

"If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense – [then] it is only about me, and finding a new dimension in my personal spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world – news which warms our hearts precisely because it isn't just about warming hearts.

Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things – and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all."

**-N. T. Wright, *Simply Christian***

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us."

**Romans 8:31-34**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXT**

Matthew 27:57-28:10

**RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE**

John 20, Mark 16, Revelation 1:17, Daniel 7:9, Daniel 10:6, Mark 9:3, Isaiah 22:16, Romans 10:15,

**STUDY GUIDE**

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - The context and circumstances of Jesus' death
  - The disposition, reasoning and motives of the officials that administered and oversaw Jesus' death
  - The activity, or inactivity, of Jesus' closest friends and family
  - The timing of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection
  - Jesus' resurrected appearance
  - The nature of the resurrected Jesus
  - The things Jesus says in his earliest resurrection appearances
  - The responses of those Jesus appeared to
  
- **What does each of these things mean?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- In what ways has the resurrection changed everything for you?

“What a difference there was in the life of the disciples before Jesus’ death and after His resurrection! Before, all was weakness and fear, self and sin. With the resurrection, all was power and joy, life and love and glory.” – **Andrew Murray**

## MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: N/A

This Week: Rom 8:34

## PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church (April):**

Apostles Church will be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

**In Response to the Text:**

- That we would see more signs of new life in our community
- That more people in our city would come to recognize the risen Christ
- That we would bring to bear upon our city the restorative and renewing power of God which raised Christ from the grave
- That we would be joyfully obedient to Jesus’ direction

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Resurrection of the Son of God* – N. T. Wright
- *The Case for Christ* – Lee Strobel
- Monergism Online Commentaries:  
[http://www.monergism.com/directory/link\\_category/Commentaries/](http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Commentaries/)
- Bible Gateway IVP Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew:  
<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=>