

## 1. Connect

**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

What part of last week's sermon on Micah 6:8 did you take into your week? How did God call you towards opposing injustice as a tangible expression of his love?

## 2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read Luke 7:11-17 together as a LifeGroup:

*11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." 14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.*

As you read this passage, what words or phrases resonate with you? Share this aloud with your group.

We are in the first week of our four-week Resurrection series leading up to Easter. Pastor Albert says Jesus' resurrecting power comforts us in our pain.

- In the same way Jesus says to the widow, "Don't give up," Jesus says the same to you: "Don't give up!" In whatever realities you may be holding in your life today, where might Jesus be saying these words to you? Share aloud with your group a difficult circumstance you are facing that Jesus can speak into.
- In all the complexities and challenges surrounding the boy's funeral, Jesus intentionally seeks out the widow. Pastor Albert said many of us have emotional and spiritual complexities, causing

us to wonder if Jesus even sees us. Take several minutes in quiet time as a group to think through what emotional and spiritual complexities are surrounding you today? Share aloud with your group.

- In the choice of words used in this passage, Jesus says that he not only sees you, but he sees *in* you. Jesus sees your heart-- your pain, your grief and suffering. What comes up as you process this reality? Is it easier to figure things out on your own or do you want to be seen? How does it make you feel that Jesus sees *in* you? Share aloud with your group.
- As Jesus approaches the boy, he touches him. The word, "touch" in the Greek is not a soft or soothing touch. The translation of the specific word, "touch" in the Greek" is to *control* and *master*. Jesus is able to put his hand into dead things because he has resurrecting power. He can bring dead things to life! What dead things are you asking Jesus to bring back to life today? Share aloud with your group.

### **3. Apply: Next Faithful Step**

In Jesus' interaction with the widow, the text says that his "heart went out to her." Pastor Albert explained this further as Jesus saying, "I'm not *moved* away from your pain. I'm drawn *towards* you in your pain." Pastor Albert defined compassion in this way: *Compassion is when your pain lives in my heart.* Is there anyone in your life you are carrying their pain alongside of them? Whose "pain lives inside your heart" in this season? How can you tangibly minister or walk alongside of them this week with the resurrecting love of Jesus?

*\*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our Resurrection series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.*

## 1. Connect

**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

What part of last week's sermon did you take into your week? How did God call you towards "not giving up"? Was there a specific "dead" thing you asked Jesus to bring back to life this past week?

## 2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read John 11 together as a LifeGroup.

- As you read this passage of Scripture, what words, images, or sentences stand out to you?
- What character in this Gospel story stood out to you? What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you through your identification with this character?
- Spend several minutes making your own observations about the passage, then share those observations together as a group.

We are in the second week of our four-week Resurrection series leading up to Easter. In today's passage, we lean into Jesus words in verse 26, "Do you believe this?"

- Spend some time talking about what stood out from the sermon. Which of the points resonated? Which illustrations are most prominent in your memory?
- Were there any points during the sermon or service in which you felt encouraged or convicted by the Holy Spirit?
- When we experience difficult circumstances, we often seek God for our situation to get better. As you reflect on difficult areas in your life, do you find yourself more interested in getting your situation better, or in God being glorified? How can you take steps towards the latter?
- Pastor Chase talked about the significance of stopping at the tomb to acknowledge what you've lost. What's one place in your life where you need to stop at the tomb and acknowledge what you've lost?
- Pastor Michael Field talked about the various stones we hold onto or bear the weight of. What is the "stone" that God is asking you to move so He can call forth resurrection in your life?

- Pastor Tiana Spencer talked about suffering as a reality of our discipleship and faith journey. What is one way God is calling you to change your perspective regarding suffering?
- Reflect on a specific time in your life when Jesus brought about a resurrection (i.e. relationally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, etc.)? Share aloud with your group.

### 3. Apply: Next Faithful Step

- What is one practical way God is asking you to roll away the stone? If you don't have a stone to roll away for yourself, who are you helping to roll away theirs?
- If you haven't yet followed along, make sure to download our Fellowship Easter Devotional, where we journey with Jesus to the cross and the resurrection. The devotional is written by our pastoral staff, and each day we lean into the words and sayings of Jesus in the Gospels. You can find the devotional on our Fellowship App or sign up for daily emails through our website: <https://madeforfellowship.com/easter-devotional/>.

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## 1. Connect

**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

As we enter into Holy Week, take this time to reflect on the Resurrection series we've been in as a community. Which aspects of the "resurrection" stories we've learned about has stood out to you the most these past two weeks?

## 2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read 1 Kings 17:17-24 together as a LifeGroup.

- As you read this passage of Scripture, what words, images, or sentences stand out to you? Spend several minutes making your own observations about the passage, then share those observations together as a group.

We are in the third week of our four-week Resurrection series leading up to Easter. In today's passage, we lean into Elijah's request to God: "Lord, my God, let this boy's life return to him!" (1 Kings 17:21).

- God is a God who gives and takes away. We are much more comfortable with celebrating the "highs" of our faith, but what do you do in the "lows"? What have you done in previous seasons (or this season) where God has taken something away?
- The two main characters in this story struggle with their crisis:
  - The widow asks Elijah if her sin is what prompted the death of her son. Have you had moments when you felt your sin kept God from extending his grace to you?
  - Like Elijah, have you had moments where in your frustration and anger you've cried out to God and heard nothing back? How have you held back from expressing your pain or anger to God?
- Pastor Albert encouraged us to do the following when we experience a season where God "takes away" and we find ourselves in crisis:

- Remember who God is. In the midst of accusation and anger, Elijah still continues to claim who God is. What is one thing you know to be true about God, that you can lean on in crisis? How can you practically remember who God is during seasons of pain and confusion?
- Remember this isn't the time to run away. In our questioning and loneliness, God makes accommodations for our doubts and questions. In your anger or hurt, have you been running from God? If you have, how can you begin to slow down and turn your attention towards God? Are there places where you've been sincerely questioning God, but with the wrong people?
- Are there places where God might be pressing into you, to get glory out of your life? Can you begin to press back into God? What does that look like for you today?
- Remember to pray big prayers. Are there any prayers that you're currently praying that are big? What can you ask God for today that is big and audacious?
- Remember he's a good Father. Don't let the reality of death create fear. Jesus Christ has taken the sting out of death and God holds us as a loving Father in the midst of our pain or suffering. How can this reality shape and guide your discipleship?

### 3. Apply: Next Faithful Step

- As we enter into Holy Week, what are the things in your life, your family and community, that desperately need the resurrection power of Christ to come near? As Pastor Albert encouraged us in the sermon, instead of running away from God, we can run to him, rest in him, and rely on him.
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**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

Christ Has Risen! He has risen indeed! This past Sunday marked the end of our Resurrection Series with the Resurrection of Christ! Our Savior is alive and the implications are eternal, historical, personal, communal, and global. Jesus is who he said he was! As you reflect on this, how does the Resurrection of Christ personally impact you? If the grave is empty, what are the implications for our communities, and even our world?

## 2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read Luke 24:1-8 together as a LifeGroup.

- As you read this passage of Scripture, what words, images, or sentences stand out to you? Spend several minutes making your own observations about the passage, then share those observations together as a group.

As we conclude The Resurrection series with Christ's Resurrection, reflect on and discuss the following questions together as a group

- Pastor Albert mentioned that in the person of Jesus Christ, God "stepped out of the picture", and stepped fully into the human situation of sin, dysfunction and suffering. How does knowing that truth shape your view of what God is like?
- Pastor Albert also mentioned that sometimes we look for the right things, but in the wrong places. The women came to the tomb looking for the one they loved, looking for Jesus, but they were looking in a graveyard. They were looking in a dead place. Are there any ways in your life where you are looking for the right thing, but you're looking in a dead place? Maybe you find yourself looking for intimacy, but in pornography, or looking for validation through financial success, or identity and significance in a dating relationship. Talk about that in your group.

- Every great gift, deserves a great response. How can you respond to the gift that God has given us in Christ? As you examine your life, what has your response to the gift of Christ been?
- Are there things in your life that you've been responding to more passionately, consistently, and wholeheartedly than the gift of Christ? If so, how can you begin to take steps to prioritize Jesus and place him at the center of your life?

### 3. Apply: Next Faithful Step

- *If the grave is empty, that means death doesn't get the last word in The Kingdom of God. It is the greatest hope that the world could ever receive. How can you bring this hope into your everyday life, into your singleness, your marriage, your community, your job, school, and your family? What practical steps can you take towards sharing this hope with the world, and allowing this hope to change your world?*

### 3. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world. **Please also as a group be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. As we noted this past Sunday, nearly 300 people were killed in terrorist attacks across Sri Lanka, an attack that targeted church goers on Easter Sunday. A communal prayer could follow this example;**

*"Lord God for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka we pray for your comfort and mercy, hope, justice, practical aid and help, and for healing and restoration for the injured. Lord as you also taught us to do, we pray for those who hate us, and we pray for the ones who have carried out this attack, may they be brought to justice, and by your mercy would they also be brought to faith in the same Christ they are persecuting. Christ have mercy on us."*