

Pastor David Patterson
Easter
Through the Ages



USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead!

[1 Corinthians 15:12-14 & 19-20]

*“But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. **But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead...***

[Luke 24:1-12 NLT]

“But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.” Then they remembered that he had said this. So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it. However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.”

[Matthew 24:3-8 NLT]

“Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?” Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your earliest memories of Easter weekend?
2. Why is the resurrection of Christ so central to us as Christians?
3. Why is it that we won't turn to God unless we reach the end of our rope? How can we live close to Him in the times of need and in the seasons of plenty?
4. On Sept 11th 2001 there was a real sense in America that we needed the protection of God. Did you sense a desire to draw close to God on that day? What will it take to live with a desire to draw near to God each day of our lives?
5. When did you first realize that Jesus was more than just a "fix it" Jesus? When did he become "the one who gave his all so I could be His child" Jesus? What did it take for you to reach that Jesus?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for those who attended Church this Easter weekend that the risen Savior, who wants to know them intimately, would captivate their hearts so they will say yes to His future for their lives.