

## The Resurrection of Jesus

April 20, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

### Open Up:

- What personal significance does Easter have for you?
- If you were standing by the tomb when the angel showed up, what would your reaction be? Would you freeze like a guard, scream and run, or whip out your phone to document it?

### Read Together:

#### Matthew 27:50-53

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

#### Matthew 28:2-4

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

#### Matthew 28:5-7

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

#### Matthew 28:8-10

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**"

#### Matthew 27:52-53

...The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

#### Isaiah 25:7-8

*On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations; **he will swallow up death forever...***

### **Isaiah 26:19**

*But **your dead will live**, Lord; **their bodies will rise** – let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy...*

### **1 Corinthians 15:20**

*But **Christ has indeed been raised** from the dead, the **firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep**.*

### **Romans 6:5**

*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, **we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his**.*

### **Discuss Together:**

- The curtain tearing at Jesus' death symbolized a barrier being removed. What are some "curtains" (barriers) people experience today that separate them from God or from each other?
- There were earthquakes, opened tombs, and people raised to life! What do you think Matthew tries to show us by including all these physical and supernatural signs?
- The angel says, "Do not be afraid." Then Jesus says it again. What fears do we carry? , especially around death or change, how does the resurrection speak to those fears?
- "Resurrection continues to happen" is a beautiful idea. Where have you seen life come out of death...spiritually, emotionally, relationally, in your own journey?

### **Pray :**

Pray for God to help you see and believe in the power of resurrection, not just as a past event but as a present reality. Ask Him to bring life to places in your heart or life that feel dry, broken, or stuck.

### **Action Step:**

Think of one area in your life, or someone else's, where you long to see "life out of death." This week, do one thing to bring hope or healing into that place: a kind word, a reconnection, a small risk, or even just a prayer of surrender.