

EASTER

The title of our study today is "The Four Encounters of Easter." We will focus on John's account of the life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. In the sermon, we were reminded that John's account of Jesus' life only goes so far. John writes these words in verse 25 of chapter 21, "Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." This is a man who has seen Jesus do the miraculous again and again. Today, our text, John 20, records a collection of encounters after Jesus has been crucified, buried in a borrowed tomb, and has risen from the grave. The theme that ties these accounts together is how people responded to the risen Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: John 20

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most? How would you summarize the theme or big idea of the sermon?
2. There are a lot of misconceptions about the real Jesus. Why are people tempted to settle for their idea of who He is rather than consider what the Bible says about Him?
3. Considering each encounter in John 20, how should we respond to those who have not yet put their faith in Christ? How should we pray for them, specifically? How can our lives help lead people to Jesus?
4. Can you point to a situation or circumstance in your life where God moved powerfully, and as a result, you surrendered your life to Christ?
5. What does the resurrection of Jesus accomplish for those who repent and put their faith in Him? What differences do we see the resurrection make in the lives of Jesus' disciples?
6. Would your day-to-day life look any different than it does now if the resurrection had not occurred? What impact should Jesus' resurrection have on our everyday lives as Christians? How can we keep the reality of Christ's resurrection fresh in our lives to avoid becoming indifferent toward it?
7. Read Hebrews 5:8-9 and James 2:14. What does it mean that repentance for salvation is more than an intellectual step? What should surrender to the authority of Jesus look like in our lives each day?
8. What's one personal takeaway from this study you can focus on applying in your life this week?