



Sermon Discussion Guide

APRIL 21, 2019 • JESUS AND THE DEATH OF DEATH • STEVE DENEFF
JOHN 20:1-2, 11-18

ACCEPT

What new thing could your group try that would make others feel accepted? Make a plan to try this.

ENCOURAGE

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.” **Isaiah 60:1-2**

- What were the positive, encouraging experiences people saw this week? Where might God have been in those situations?
- What were some of the difficult situations or experiences of the week? Where might God have been during those times?

Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week.

TEACH

Teaching Summary ([Click here for a brief sermon summary video](#))

One of the great themes throughout the Bible is the struggle between life and death: “The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy but I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly,” (John 10:10). This struggle culminates in the life of Jesus as death reaches out to claim him (Good Friday) and in the process dies itself (Easter). This is the message of Easter - “the last enemy to be defeated is death” (1 Corinthians 15:26) - and it is played out every day in this world through our lives.

Review Questions

1. If you have any connection to Easter or the church throughout your life, what is the story of salvation you have heard? If the story of salvation is about Jesus bringing life (reproducing, flourishing, option-filled future) and overcoming death (diminishing, depowering, optionless future), how does this change your perspective?
2. Is our culture (in our group or organization) a culture of flourishing and options (life) or is it a culture of scarcity and hopelessness (death)? How can we live with one another in ways that resemble life instead of death?
3. How can we make ourselves available to God in ways that fill us with life instead of death?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

REFLECT AND CORRECT

- Are there any unresolved issues between people in your group or organization? What might be the first step toward reconciliation?

SERVE

- Think of someone else in your group or organization. What gifts do they have to offer the rest of the group? How can you encourage them to use those gifts?

PRAY

Here is a guided prayer based on Psalm 16. The leader can start and people in the group can finish each sentence.

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

(give people a moment to be silent and listen)

- “Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. God, I need your protection from...”
- “Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup. I’m trusting you to provide...”
- “My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices. I’m rejoicing because...”
- “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. God, I need courage to...”

“You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Amen.

*Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.
Spend time praying with each other now, listening to God for ways to pray.*