

Lifeline

BELONG

ICE-BREAKER

What's a memory you have from Easter growing up? (It could be positive or negative.)

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:8 ESV

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Isaiah 53:5-6, 11-12 NLT

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 NLT

20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. 21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NLT

54 Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:9-15 NLT

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. 10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. 13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

BE

Begin as a group by telling the version of the Easter story that is well-known in our culture. Note what things are emphasized, what things are might be missing, and what things are confusing.

Read 1 John 3:8 ESV. Read Isaiah 53:5-6, 11-12 NLT. What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What do these verses reveal to us about God?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 NLT. What stands out to you? What do these verses reveal to us about God? What do these verses reveal to us about humans?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NLT. Discuss the timeline of existence with God. What does it mean that our dying bodies "have been transformed into bodies that will never die"? How does the Law play a role in this?

Read Colossians 2:9-15 NLT. What are the two comparisons the scripture makes? Why are they significant?

Now, as a group, tell the version of the Easter story that you now understand to be true. It is probably a fuller, more rich understanding of the good news. What will you do with this grace and revelation? Will you hold onto it? Will you allow it to transform you? Will you share it?

Share one way that you will commit to responding to God's word this week.

DO

Thank Jesus for His incarnate life, his death on the cross, his resurrection, and the new life that he has given all those who believe in him.

Spend time acknowledging, or confessing, to God that we often narrow or limit our understanding of the gospel. Then invite the teacher, the Holy Spirit, to reveal more truth about the good news.

Finally, conclude by blessing one another to live out the commitments this week that were made.

