

E A S T E R

AT
PRAIRIE
LAKES

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INTRODUCTION

Our *Luke* series powerfully concludes this weekend, focusing on Chapter 24 of the Gospel of Luke and the crux of our faith, the Easter message. Pastor John highlights three encounters with the living Jesus within this chapter, reminding us we, too, can have the course of our life changed forever because of the Easter truth of the resurrected Jesus.

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor John shares some life-altering moments in his own story. Can you identify some pivotal times in your journey that caused you to amend your life – either in thought, view or actual life direction? Share one or two of these with the group or in a personal journal.
2. Read the “Road to Emmaus” story in **Luke 24:13-35**. Then, re-read verses 13-16 and 30-32, and note the contrast in verses 16 and 31. Can you think back to times in your life when you didn’t recognize His workings until later? Was there an “aha” instance when the reality of His hand in your situation was finally realized? How can this increase your faith in current circumstances?
3. The three encounters highlighted in the message and Luke 24 include Mary Magdalene and distraction, the two travelers and their disappointment and the disciples and their fear and hiding. Which of these reactions do you typically have propensity to fall into? Is there one of these modes you are currently battling? Share as a group, and spend time praying for one another and these specific challenges.
4. How does that fact that Jesus is alive –He actually resurrected after His death on the cross – change your life? How can this biblical truth alter our outlook on the demands of life and our most dire of circumstances?

DO SOMETHING

1. This week, make it a focus of prayer that your eyes will be open and you will recognize HIM. Ask God to help you see Him in every hour as you go about your weekly duties. At the end of each day, take a few moments to recall or write down ways you experienced His power.
2. Luke 24:45 reads “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.” Before opening the Word each day at home, Bible study, small group, etc., ask the Lord to grant you understanding of the Scriptures. Seek to make this a life habit.
3. Pastor John emphasized Jesus defeated our dual enemies of physical death and spiritual death. Spend time this week contemplating fears you have of physical death, for you or a loved one. Likewise, consider what it means to be spiritually dead. Schedule time away to fully turn your fear of death over to our living God and invite Him to probe your heart for areas you might be spiritually dead. Repent and seek life in Him. Share your experience with a pastor, mentor or godly friend.

RESOURCES

1. In Session 6 of *The Easter Experience*, “I Have a Hope that Never Dies,” Kyle Idleman follows the story of Mary Magdalene and Jesus’ followers who thought their hope was lost when He died.
2. The 2018 PLC Easter message reminds us, “Knowing Jesus is ALIVE moves us from being stuck in fear and locked up to being overjoyed in our hearts and free in our minds.”
3. D.A. Carson’s *Scandalous: The Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus*, is available on Amazon in paperback, Kindle or Audible. Carson addresses how Christians are to approach the central Gospel teachings concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus.