



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Redeem*
Message: *Finally Free*

Scripture: *Mark 16:1-8*

Date: April 20 & 21, 2019

—[LET'S START]—

This weekend we had an opportunity to celebrate the most significant event in the history of the world – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What were some of the highlights of your weekend? How have you seen Christ at work in your life over the course of this Easter season?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? As a group, take some time to pray. Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work, and pray about the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.

2. Read Mark 16:1-8.

Put yourself in the story on that first Easter morning. You are on your way to the tomb to bring aromatic spices as a courtesy to the next grieving family. Your biggest concern is how you will gain access to the tomb, because of the large stone and the soldiers who guard the tomb. There is no question in your mind that Jesus is dead. Hope is gone. And then you see the stone rolled away and a young man clothed in a white robe who says, "He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body." What do you think you would have done in that situation?

Why do you think it was so important to the angel that Peter, specifically, be told about the resurrection?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19.

In his sermon, Pastor Dale spoke about some of the evidences of the resurrection, including the credibility of the witnesses, the exponential growth of faith, the fact that there is no other satisfying explanation for the empty tomb, that the story of life, death and resurrection makes sense of the world, and finally the fact that God still chooses to do miracles. How do these evidences impact your faith?

4. Pastor Dale told the story of Amy towards the end of his sermon. What struck you about Amy's situation and how God has used it for His glory?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Easter Sunday is always a special day. This year, we witnessed as many people walked across the stage to profess their new faith in Christ or their decision to recommit their lives to Christ. Those who walked across the stage did so with a stone in their hand. The stone was then dropped into the tomb. The stones symbolized our sinful attitudes and actions, the things that we wish we were not, the brokenness that we have experienced, and the brokenness that we have caused. Let's close our time today by breaking into groups of 2-3 people. As God leads you, share what it is that you need to leave at the tomb, and pray that God might help you to experience the freedom of mercy and forgiveness of His love.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- There is one thing that no person can budge and that is death. Death is just too strong to be moved. Non one who is truly dead has ever broken out of the grave on their own. It isn't death we are powerless against, it is sin which causes death (See Romans 6:23).
- Death is the consequence, but sin is the culprit!
- As the women went to the tomb on Easter morning their hope was gone.
- If the resurrection of Jesus is nothing more than a legend or hoax, then we are the most hopeless people on the planet.
- Is what you're putting your faith in true? Is there any evidence that a power that is truly greater than ourselves can deliver us from the cause of death?
- The evidence for the resurrection is profound. Here are just a few of the evidences:
 - The credibility of the witnesses
 - The exponential growth of the faith
 - There is no other satisfying explanation for the empty tomb
 - The story of the life, death and resurrection makes sense of the world.
 - God still does miracles.
- Jesus wanted Peter to know His death and resurrection was as much for his friend who had failed Him as it was for everyone else.
- Dale tells the miraculous story of his friend Amy, who has been miraculously cured from cancer.
- God wants to do a miracle in your life (See Romans 8:11).
- Dale ended the sermon with an opportunity for people to respond to the Gospel.

—[NOTES]—
