

# Sunday: Day of Atonement

JESUS' FINAL WEEK - 7

I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but he isn't here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would...And now, go quickly and tell his disciples....  
- MATTHEW 28:5-7

For God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message, which the world calls foolish and silly.  
-1 CORINTHIANS 1:21,  
LIVING BIBLE

Jesus' unique identity as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when Jesus was raised from the dead, setting Him apart as Christ and Lord (Romans 1:4). All four Gospels mention that women were the first to discover the wonder of the empty tomb. Given the fact that first-century opinion that didn't place a high value on the testimony of women, this is just another interesting bit of detail which lends credibility to the resurrection claims made in the Gospels. The fact that Jesus chose to appear to these women before His own disciples is just another example of the way in which God turns conventional wisdom on its head (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)!

## WELCOME

The historical resurrection of Jesus was not so much a *dogma* believed by the early Christians, as a *dynamic*--impacting their daily lives. They believed in a living Christ, and lived in constant awareness of His presence and anticipation of His return.

*When did the fact of Jesus' resurrection become more than just "Christian dogma?"*

## WORSHIP

It is important each week as you worship together, to nurture an awareness of Christ's presence. Ask someone to give special thought to the fact that every time you meet in Jesus' name, your group becomes a place where Christ shows up and ministers through His body. After your time in the word, ask that person to lead you in a worship and adoration of the One who lives in the midst of His people!

## WORD

**Read Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20**

1. Why do you think the women go to the tomb at the time they do? [Notice the commentary Luke provides—Luke 23:56-24:1]. What does this say about them? Where have their thoughts been since Friday? How do you think they felt as they left the tomb? As they met Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus appear to these women before he appeared to his own disciples?
3. Upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, how do the disciples respond? Why is doubt mingled with their worship? Have you ever been in a similar situation?
4. Who did Jesus send to tell you of His resurrection? Did you have trouble believing? How were you finally convinced of Jesus' resurrection? , or realized the difference between a dead Savior and a living Lord?
5. When it comes down to it, would you live your life any differently if He weren't raised from the dead? How would you like the fact of the resurrection to shape your daily life?

## WORKS

Is there one person in your life right now who is open to the message of Jesus? Do you consider sharing your faith with this person more of a *delight* or a *duty*? Why?

The Easter service on April 11<sup>th</sup> might be just the opportunity you need to "break the ice" and begin sharing the difference Jesus is making in your life!