



Sermon Discussion Questions  
04-05-26

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Sermon Series: I Believe  
Week 7: Sunday!

1. ICE BREAKER: This is the last week of our series. Have you learned anything new? Feel like God has been doing something specific in your life? Reflect with your group on the series and what you will take away from it.
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Matthew 28:1-10:

*<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

*<sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*<sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

*<sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped*

*his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

What do you notice as you read this Scripture today? What word or phrase is standing out to you? What would you have been thinking if you were at the tomb?

3. On that first Easter morning, "No body expected No Body!" Even though Jesus spoke often to his disciples about his death and resurrection, it seems that none of them really expected him to rise again.

Why do you think the disciples didn't expect the Resurrection? Is it difficult or easy for you to take the things Jesus says at face value and believe them? Why?

4. In 1 Peter 1:3-4, Peter writes, *"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."* That inheritance is encompassed in the last line of the Apostles' Creed: "the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting."

With your group, define each element included in this line of the Apostles' Creed. Why does Peter define this as our inheritance? What does the phrase "living hope" mean to you personally?

5. The Resurrection means the future resurrection of our bodies! Reread Matthew 28:5-6. The angel says to the women that Jesus has risen "just as he said."

Why do you think the angel makes sure to point out that Jesus had said this would happen? What are some of the other truths that Jesus has said that have particular importance to you?

6. The Resurrection also means that everlasting life is real. In 1 Corinthians 15:19, Paul says, *"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."* There is more, and we're not there yet.

What does Paul mean when he says we are most to be pitied if Christ is only for this life? How does your perspective on life now change, knowing that everlasting life is real? Do you feel this truth affects your daily life? Why or why not?

7. One author and theologian writes that humanity is afflicted with two diseases - life, from which we die, and hope, which tells us the first disease isn't terminal. He believes hope is built into the structure of our personalities and the very core of who we are.

How would you define hope? Do you agree with this author? Why or why not?

8. Finally, the Resurrections means the forgiveness of sins. This leads us not just to eternal life, but to the abundant life that Jesus promises here on earth! Interestingly, Danish Philosopher and Christ follower Soren Kierkegaard writes that sin is not just doing wrong things, it's becoming the wrong person.

React to Kierkegaard's idea. Do you agree that sin is not just about doing wrong things, but about becoming the wrong person? How do you see yourself being changed into a different person?

9. PRACTICE: This is the last week of this series surrounding the Apostles' Creed. For the last time, say the Apostles' Creed together. Pray the words and their meaning as you say them out loud.

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead.*

*The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, He shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*