



- History's Mystery -

Ice-Breaker:

- What Easter traditions (if any) do you currently observe? What do they mean to you?

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 16:16; John 1:29; John 11:15; John 14:9. **Jesus'** never asked his followers to trust in His ideas, He instructed his followers to trust in Him. How do these verses shine light on the fact that no one took Jesus' teachings and claims seriously after the crucifixion?

2. *'We don't believe in the resurrection just because the Bible says it happened. We believe it because it's grounded in history (i.e. story of Nero, Caesar Augustus) and eyewitnesses (i.e. Matthew, John, Peter, Paul) and people who met eyewitnesses (i.e. Mark, Luke, James) wrote about it.'* Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

3. Read John 20:1-18.

- What details in the story stand out to you?
- Why do those details matter to you?

4. Jesus' followers didn't reengage because of something Jesus taught. They reengaged because of something they saw: Jesus. Easter ties our faith to something that *happened* rather than something we merely *believe*. The foundation of Christianity is the resurrection. Something *happened* that addresses the deepest issues of our lives. Because of the resurrection, you can know...

- **There is forgiveness for your sins...** because that's why Jesus died on the cross.
- **There is life beyond this life...** because Jesus taught us about heaven.
- **There is hope...** because Jesus rose from the dead.
- **Everything you do in life matters...** because faithfulness will be rewarded in heaven.

Share why the truths above are meaningful to you, personally.

Application:

Easter represents a time of new beginnings. In what area of your life does Jesus' resurrection represent an opportunity for you to begin again, and what is one thing you can do to start that process?