



**LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH
THE EASTER SUNDAY SERMON
The Passage – Luke 24:1-12
For LCs meeting 4.20.14 – 5.3.14**

These LC studies complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and are not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all of these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start to customize for your LC.

Big Idea: Jesus conquered death. He is life and we find life in Him.

Luke 24:1-12 (NIV © 2011)

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Discussion Questions:

Spices were commonly used in the ancient world to anoint kings and for burial embalming. They were usually expensive, however, so the use of them likely did depend on what loved ones of the deceased could afford. The women mentioned in this passage had prepared the spices on the night Jesus was crucified just as they would have prepared them if another friend or family member passed away. After resting on the Sabbath day, they took the spices to the tomb early on the 3rd day with the intention to show their affection and respect for Jesus by embalming His dead body.

Many of us have experienced the loss of a family member or friend. Describe what the women were likely feeling and possibly thinking as they made their way to the tomb.

(They were grieving. Maybe they were hoping to find some comfort.)

Before victory, there is often a period of seeming ruin and death: a long period of what feels like a loss of hope and it feels like love has lost. Describe a time when it seemed like all was lost or ruined but then things turned around for you and you marveled at what God had done in your life or situation.

We can imagine the surprise the women had when they discovered that the tomb was empty. Just as they were wondering about how this could be, two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and spoke to them, saying, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” The angelic beings reminded them of the words of Jesus while He was still with them in Galilee and they remembered His words. After all of this, how were the women probably feeling?

(The women left the empty tomb believing something that they did not believe in when they were on their way to the tomb: the resurrection of their Lord Jesus.)

Have you ever heard news or realized something extremely important that you had been told would happen but you had forgotten or did not fully understand what had been said to you?

When we receive good news, we usually want to tell others about it. This is what the women did when they learned that Jesus was alive again. The Eleven disciples did not believe the women because what they shared sounded like “nonsense” to them. The story of the Resurrection does not make much sense from an earthly or natural perspective so it shouldn’t be surprising to us that the Eleven did not believe the women.

Why do you think Peter ran to the tomb?

(We do not have a clear answer in this passage but he may have been curious to see for himself. See if group members have any other thoughts.)

Notice how easily the women and other disciples forgot the words of Christ. We often do the same in our lives today. If they had remembered His words, how would their experience of His death have been different?

All of us desire life and try to find it in different places. Some have looked to a significant other or romance to find life and fulfillment. Others have looked to financial success, a respectable

career path or good grades. Still others try to find meaning by having a cause to fight for or by doing good works. These things in and of themselves are not bad but the only source of the life we long for is Jesus Christ. He said in John 14:19, “Because I live, you also will live.” Some of us, even though we now have Christ, forget that life is found in Him and we go our own way. In our series leading up to Easter at Grace Chapel, we looked at seven deadly sins. It is easy to get caught up in one or more of these sins and to begin believing the lie that we will find life as we participate in these sinful ways. Have you ever tried to find life in a place where you could not find it?

The resurrection of Christ is vital. If He had not risen from the grave, our belief in Him would be in vain. It is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith (see Romans 10:9-10). Have you fully accepted the truth of the resurrection in spite of it being “nonsense” from an earthly perspective?

How does the resurrection stir up hope?

(Death does not have to defeat us; there is another possibility—Christ overcomes physical death and we can do so as well if we have Him in us—John 14:19.)

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- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group.
 - b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
 - c. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
 - d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
 - e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
 - f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
 - g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.