

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 27, 2016

Luke 24:1-12

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Common English Bible (CEB)

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵ The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. ¹² But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Connection Questions:

1. Why were the women at the tomb?
2. Do most people prepare for death? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. It seems that the women weren't expecting a message from angels and so they were startled and perplexed. How does our attitude in life affect the choices we make?
4. One of Jesus' central messages in the synoptic gospels is that the kingdom of God is not only in the future but that it is also in the present. How is that possible?
5. In Rev. Adkins' sermon, he shares a story from the late Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, about a woman janitor who had influenced cancer patients in a positive way. How can we use our faith to bring hope to people who are dealing with death?

6. The story of the Resurrection is at the heart of the Christian message. Discuss how this story separates us from those in the Jewish faith. Jesus through his teachings, tried to be inclusive and to bring Jews and Greeks together. Discuss.

7. If we believe God's kingdom is presently with us, discuss the places where you see it.

8. Do you think Christians focus on life more than death? Why or why not?

9. In *Pilgrims Progress*, the Evangelist tells the pilgrim that keeping our eyes focused on God's light effects how we see God's judgement. How can the Easter message effect how we see and face God's judgement?