

TAKEAWAY



THE RADICAL KING

Matthew 28:1-15 - He's Alive!

In line with our goal to be a church of disciples who make disciples, this session is focussed on action, so that we are 'doers of the word' and not just hearers/people who enjoy a good discussion! It encourages focussed practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in the group so that our discipleship as followers of Jesus is deliberately pursued.

DESIRED OUTCOMES *You don't necessarily need to discuss these, but be aware as a leader.*

- To learn to inhabit the resurrection story
- To reflect on how we find it difficult to live in the light of Jesus' resurrection
- To grow in faith, believing that streams can flow in our wilderness and life can come out of dead places

SHARE

- Share any experiences from last time's try-outs
- Look back on the last week/month/year – what examples can you give of fresh life coming from dead or barren places?

READ

Matthew 28:1-15

DISCUSS

The women ran from the tomb "afraid, but filled with joy". Share a time in your life where you have stepped out in faith, how did it feel?

QUOTE

"[Christians] need to be sure they are allowing the resurrection to blow constantly like a fresh breeze through their lives, thoughts and imaginations. There's no point defending and explaining God's new world if you're living in the old one yourself." – Tom Wright.

DISCUSS

We may not deny his resurrection with our words, but what are the ways we might deny it with our lives or attitudes? Or in the words of the quote above, "live in the old world instead of God's new world"?

What are some wildernesses/dead places that we are encountering right now?

The guards were bribed to deny Jesus' resurrection, to keep them out of trouble. What are the challenges in life that can prevent us from fully living out our lives in the light of the resurrection? What trouble might we face? What benefits (i.e. the guard's bribe) are on offer for keeping it under wraps? How do we counter these temptations?

The resurrection of Jesus is an amazing and transforming moment in history, but life is still hard. How can we let the truth of the resurrection lead us into a more faith filled approach to our troubles? How does it speak to us in the here and now?

Ian shared about the grass and flowers that would spring out of the desert in Oman after the rain, but soon after died again. How can we ensure that fresh work God does in us sustains?

PRAY

TRY OUT

Notice the way you react to different challenges this week, in what ways are you inhabiting the resurrection story, and in what ways are you denying it? Do not judge yourself, but reflect on how you can grow.

Who do you know who is in a wilderness place right now (it may be you)? Pray for them this week, ask God if there's a way you can bless them. Perhaps God is challenging you to increase your expectation and pray more boldly?

Believe for an opportunity to step out in faith, however small it might be. Like the women, expect to be "afraid, yet full of joy".