



Because of Easter... | Shawn Johnson | 4.4.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What was your favorite part about Easter?

SHARE

Happy Easter Week! Hopefully, you got some time to celebrate with those closest to you! Shawn's message this week was a incredible reminder that no one is ever too far gone for the rescue of God. Before we dive into the message, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

Rate your week on a scale of 1 to 10. Why did you pick that number?

What is one thing you feel like God was teaching you this Easter? Did anything stick out to you that you haven't ever noticed?

What is one thing you are currently asking God for?

GROW

Read John 20:1-18

The passage you just read is the climax of the entire Biblical story. From Genesis to Revelation, all of Scripture points to this morning, where the tomb is empty.

The story begins at the dawn of a brand-new week. When the sun went down on Saturday, it must have felt like all hope was lost. But the Easter story is a reminder that when things are at their darkest, a brand-new day is dawning. It's proof that darkness is nothing more than a beautiful backdrop for the light to shine.

What does the resurrection mean to you?

Have you seen the truth of the Gospel play out in your own life? If so, how?

Jesus made a way for us to have full, abundant life that begins right now and will continue for all of eternity. Because no matter how dark things may look, light has had and will always have the final say!

The Easter story changes everything. Whether you are feeling hopeless, anxious, or purposeless, the Easter story is excellent news. Because of Easter...God is just getting started in your life!

As Shawn reminded us this week, this was Mary Magdalene's story. She was the last person anyone would've thought God would invite to help build the Kingdom. When Jesus first meets her, she is a demon-possessed outcast who had lost her way (Luke 8:2). But Jesus always seems to have a knack for finding people who are far from God.

Why do you think this pattern exists in the Gospels? Why would Jesus pick the least likely candidates to complete his mission? What does that tell us about him?

This story is excellent news for anyone who has ever felt far from God. If you've ever wondered if God has a plan or purpose for your life, remember, the Bible is full of men and women who were far from Him. The world may tell you your story is over, but because of Easter, everything has changed. Because of Easter, you are just getting started!

Have you ever doubted that God has a plan and purpose for your life? Why did you doubt? What can you learn from the story of Mary Magdalene?

M O V E

Read John 20:24-29

What can we learn from this interaction Jesus has with Mary?

The Easter story reminds us that God had a plan the whole time. We have the luxury of reading this story all these years later, but when Jesus went to the cross on Friday, Mary and the disciples must've thought the story was over. However, we know now what they were about to find out—God was just getting started.

Over the years, we've seen similar circumstances play out all the time. Sometimes it looks like everything is falling apart, but then we realize that God had a plan the entire time. You may need to hear that about your life right now. If you find yourself feeling down or lost, wondering if God still cares about you, remember because of Easter...everything has changed.

Because of Easter...

1. We know God is alive.
2. We can trust that God is with us.
3. We are certain God has a plan.
4. We can rest, knowing God is in control.

Which of those four come the most naturally to you? Why do you think that is?

Which of those four is the most difficult for you to remember? Why do you think that is?

This week, Shawn reminded us about the importance of standing on the truth. The world will try to tell us who they think we should be, but because of Easter...we get to remind the world who God says we are. Take some time to read through this list together. As you read, notice which one stands out to you, and then read the Bible verse that goes along with it.

1 John 3:1	I am a child of God.
John 3:16	God loves me.
Romans: 10:13	God accepts me.
1 John 1:9	I'm forgiven.
Jeremiah 29:11	I have a purpose.
1 John 4:4	I'm an overcomer.
Romans 8:37	You are more than a conqueror.

Hebrews 13:5	God is with me & he'll never leave me.
Romans 8:28	God is working in my life.
Matthew 19:26	Nothing is impossible for my God.

Which of those truths stuck out to you the most? Why do you think that is?

Take a moment and read the Bible verse out loud to your Group. Challenge one person in your Group to memorize that verse with you this week. What is one way you can remind yourself of that truth this week?

Take-Home Assignment: Celebrate Easter Every Day

Celebrate Easter every day this week by writing these three truths out long-hand every morning:

BECAUSE OF EASTER...

1. MY GOD IS ALIVE
2. MY GOD IS WITH ME
3. MY GOD HAS A PLAN
4. MY GOD IS IN CONTROL

Once you've written these truths out, declare them out loud at least three times throughout your day. Observe how your week begins to change as you begin celebrating Easter every day!

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

