



Why Does Easter Matter | Shawn Johnson | 4.9.23

## SHARE

Happy Easter Week! Shawn shared a powerful message on the reason why Easter matters. Because God knew we are imperfect people in need of a rescuer, he sent his perfect son Jesus to live among his messy, sinful creation. He then endured a brutal death to redeem and restore each one of us by the power of his resurrection. Easter matters because our God cares deeply for us and did not want to live a moment without us. This is the Good News of Easter!

## GROW

### **Read Luke 24:1-6**

The passage 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 a 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 Easter matters...we can do life with God who brings us great comfort and heals the broken-hearted (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalm 34:18).

### **Read Matthew 26:69-75**

This story may seem like it ends in darkness, but the truth of the matter is that it is excellent news for anyone who has ever felt far from God. Peter later goes on to preach in front of thousands of people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and leads over 3000 people to salvation! 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. Sometimes it looks like everything is falling apart, but then we realize that God had a plan the entire time. The world may tell you that your story is over, but because Easter matters, we can have confidence in the resurrection of Jesus!

**Have you ever doubted that God has a plan and purpose for your life? Why did you doubt?**

**What can you learn from Peter's story?**

**M O V E**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Hebrews 4:16**

The resurrection isn't just something we hope happened. It is a historical event that we can trust because we have an overwhelming amount of evidence. Let's take a few minutes to talk through some of this evidence. The resurrected Jesus appeared to over 500 eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6)! Think about that for a second. If you showed up for jury duty and one side had over 500 hundred eyewitnesses, the trial wouldn't last very long. The evidence would be too overwhelming. We can have confidence that Jesus rose from the grave because we have

over 500 eyewitnesses. For the rest of group, let's spend some time talking about how your daily life can change when you have confidence in the resurrection.

Because of faith in Jesus, we are...

1. A new creation
2. A child of God
3. Chosen
4. Forgiven
5. A carrier of the Holy Spirit
6. More than a conqueror
7. Set Free
8. On your way to heaven forever
9. Live with purpose

**Does knowing that Easter truly matters change the way you see your relationship with God?**

**How can you approach God's throne of Grace with confidence this week?**

**Take-Home Assignment: Celebrate Easter Every Day**

Celebrate Easter every day this week with confidence by writing these truths each 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 as God brings them to sight. Observe how your week begins to change as you begin celebrating Easter every day!

P R A Y

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.

*“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*