



I Am The Resurrection | Shawn Johnson | 03.31.2024
Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

Share a high and low from last week.

What was Easter like for you growing up?

What does Easter mean to you?

GROW

He is risen! Welcome to week five of our "I Am" series here at Red Rocks. As we continue to walk through the seven "I am" statements made by Jesus, our aim is to discover the characteristics and attributes of God as we look at the life of Jesus. Here at Red Rocks Church, we are on a mission to help people Know God, Live on Purpose, and Go Change the World. As we gain a better understanding of God's heart for our lives, our hope is that it equips and empowers us to be continuously transformed more and more into the image of Jesus as we live out the kind of lives He has for us.

This Easter weekend, Pastor Shawn jumped into Jesus' fifth "I Am" statement found in the Gospel of John: *I Am The Resurrection*. Here, we see Jesus' dear friend, Lazarus, fall gravely

ill. Despite the urgent pleas of Mary and Martha for Jesus to intervene, he deliberately delays his arrival until after Lazarus has passed away. This must have been devastating for Mary and Martha, begging the question: *Why?* How often do we feel this way? Despite prayers and cries for help, we sometimes feel as if God doesn't see or hear us. But what if something more was at play?

Jesus' timing in this story serves a greater purpose—to reveal God's glory and foreshadow Jesus' resurrection. If Jesus had answered Mary and Martha's cries for help, the significance of healing Lazarus would have been something with temporary significance—a miracle nonetheless—but one that may have been lost in other stories of healing. Instead, through Jesus' perfect plan and timing, we see one of the greatest miracles He ever performed. Later, we see Jesus overcome death Himself, not by avoiding it or delivering Himself from the punishment of the cross, but by offering up His life for ours and overcoming death through His resurrection.

When this first happened, people didn't understand. Jesus was the hope of the world, at least, He was supposed to be. When He died, people from that time thought that it was all over. They lost hope, began to question if He really was who He said He was, and were left feeling devastated, all because the story of the Messiah didn't end the way they envisioned it would. And thank God it didn't.

Within these two stories of Lazarus and Jesus coming back to life, we see that God rarely moves in our life how we think He will, never in the timing we hope for, but He always shows up in ways far better than we could have possibly imagined. When we place our faith in Him, we receive with confidence the truth found in Ephesians 3:20.

Read John 11:25-26 NIV, Luke 24:1-6 NIV

Martha and Mary respond differently to Jesus' arrival after Lazarus' death (John 11:20-32). How do their reactions reflect common responses to grief, faith, and doubt? In what ways do you relate to Martha or Mary in your own experiences of loss or crisis?

Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). How does this statement challenge or deepen your understanding of Jesus' identity and the nature of eternal life?

In Luke 24:4, the angels ask the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Is there an area of your life where you’re looking for healing, breakthrough, provision, etc., in places that Jesus wants you to leave behind? Explain.

Discuss any other takeaways you have from this weekend’s message.

M O V E

Shawn mentioned that Jesus always goes above and beyond in His love for us and for the glory of His kingdom. There may be moments in life when we don’t understand, but when we learn to trust in His plan and timing, we can show up each day with an “Ephesians 3:20 confidence” that God is always moving on our behalf, even when we can’t see it. Many of us pray to God, asking for what we think is reasonable, or maybe for what we think we’ve earned through our works, but very few of us approach the throne of grace with bold faith through radical prayer, knowing that He can do far more than we ask or imagine. Scripture says that those who ask will be given, and those who seek will find. Is it possible that God wants to do something in your life far greater than anything you’ve ever thought of praying for?

Read Ephesians 3:16-20 NIV, Ephesians 1:18-21 NIV

What sticks out to you in Ephesians 3:16-20?

Is your prayer life influenced by any self-limiting beliefs you hold about yourself, your circumstances, or God? Or does it thrive on radical faith and unwavering trust in God's character and His love for you? Explain.

Have you ever felt abandoned by Jesus during a season of desperation? How did you perceive His absence during that period? Despite feeling let down in the beginning, how did Jesus eventually reveal Himself in extraordinary ways, surpassing your expectations and bringing about unexpected blessings?

P R A Y

God, we thank you for your love and sacrifice for us. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, who conquered death and rose again, offering us life to the full, both now and forever. May this Easter be a time of reflection, gratitude, and renewal. God, in moments when we get discouraged and feel like you don't see us or hear us, would you remind us that you always show up in ways beyond anything we could ever ask or imagine, all for the honor and glory of your kingdom.