



## The Resurrection and the Life | Week 5 | Doug Wekenmann | 3.30-31

### Weekly Study

#### SHARE

- What is something from the Easter service that has stayed with you this week?
- Share what you did for Easter weekend this year. What's a high and low from that day?

#### GROW

##### Read Matthew 28:1-7

It is Easter here at Red Rocks and the 5th week of our "I AM" series. Jesus' 5th statement might be his boldest claim yet: *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; The one who believes in me will live, even though they die,'" (John 11:25).*

Our God doesn't play it safe and craft political sentences, he tells us up front who he is. And he delivers on it. He is the chain breaker and the promise keeper. Our ever loving and living God did what we couldn't, he made the sacrifice so we wouldn't have to. Jesus claimed victory on the cross when he rose from the grave and defeated sin and death, just as he said he would.

##### Read John 11: 11-15 and 21-27

##### **If you're anxious, there's peace.**

When Jesus hears that his friend Lazarus is sick he doesn't rush, he waits two more days. We might not always understand the pace Jesus is moving in our lives. But we can trust that he moves with our best intention at heart. Even though Jesus knows the plans he has for our good, he can handle our questioning. Nothing is off the table. Martha confronts Jesus and he gives her clarity. He doesn't always give us an answer, but he is always quick to listen. And

when we talk with God, we can know a peace that surpasses all understanding.

- Re-read verse 14-15, what do you think Jesus meant when he said this?**
- What are moments in your life where God challenged your patience?**
- What emotion are you hesitant to show God? How does it feel to be honest to God in prayer?**

### **Read John 11: 32-36**

#### **If you're sad, there's hope.**

Jesus is present with us in our pain. We can tend to hide our tears, but Mary isn't afraid to meet Jesus with her sorrow. In fact, he steps into that sadness with her. Jesus knows our hearts deeply and he understands even the most complicated emotion. When we go to him for comfort, he meets us in equal measure with empathy.

- What is a characteristic of Jesus in this passage that stands out to you? How does that make you feel about him?**
- In verse 35, Jesus wept. What do you think caused Jesus' tears?**
- Talk about a time in your life when you felt Jesus' love for you.**

### **Read John 11: 38-44**

#### **If you're dead, there's life.**

When we reach Lazarus' tomb, Jesus reminds Martha to believe and she will see the glory of God. God wants us to be a part of the story. He knows that death forever doesn't sit right with us, he designed us for eternity. Jesus takes the finality out of grief. He asks us to believe and behold as he wipes away every tear from our eyes and gives us Heaven today.

- Even though we will see our loved ones again one day, it doesn't take away the pain right now. What has brought you the biggest source of comfort in grief? How can others pray for you?**
- How has God comforted you during a time of loss?**
- What does it mean for you today that you will have eternity forever?**

## MOVE

### **If you're hesitant, there's evidence.**

God isn't afraid of skepticism. He can take your questions. If you seek artifacts, witnesses, testimony, explanation - the evidence is overwhelming. Jesus' life is where we mark before and after in history. Yet, faith requires trust and heart. The most common thing that keeps us from God is ourselves; our pain, our fear, our anger. But we find God in our relationship with him. Jesus laid his life down so you could be imperfect *and* walk freely with him each day.

- Who do you go to when you have questions about God? Do you ever bring those questions to Jesus?**
- What are things you grapple with about faith in Jesus? Do you think any of those things are misconceptions?**

### **If you're fine, there's more.**

Jesus tells us, "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full,*" (John 10:10). He doesn't just mean life forever. He wants you to experience fullness of life today with the freedom that the story doesn't end here. When we walk with Jesus, our pain starts to have a purpose and our anxiety turns into trust. The joys we have on Earth leave us satisfied, full. The need for more and more turns into contentment.

- Was there a time where you felt apathy towards faith? Are you experiencing any of that recently?**
- What would it look like to bring God into your current interests and passions?**
- How does gratitude play into your life currently? When you think about a good meal or a fun day how does it feel to show gratitude to God for those things?**
- What is a time you experienced contentment or joy from faith?**

## P R A Y

Share and write down each other's prayer requests as a group. Partner with the person to your left and pray for each other.