GROUP ICE BREAKER
What is your favorite Easter candy?

REVIEW LAST WEEK’S NEXT STEPS
What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will read John 12-19 this week.
- I will pray that my expectations and God's intentions are in alignment.
- I will tell someone of my decision to follow Jesus.

MESSAGE SUMMARY
Because of the resurrection, people all around the world stop what they’re doing and go to church. Some go to remember, others to rejoice, and still others to recalibrate. We focused on four conversations Jesus had with people shortly after his resurrection.

The first conversation comes as the disciples raced to the tomb. In mid-stride they ran into their resurrected Savior. Jesus looked at his followers, and said, “Fear not.” Fear is powerful and it may be real to you. This Easter, the resurrected Jesus is saying you don't have to cave in to every fearful thought that enters your mind.

The second conversation happened because one of Jesus’ disciples had been absent when Jesus first appeared after the resurrection. When the other disciples told him, he blurted out, “I would have to push my finger into the wounds on his hands and feet before I would believe in a resurrection.” Jesus he says two words to Thomas, “Touch me.” Jesus is not angry or afraid of honest doubt. He warmly invites questions, to come, seek, and ask.

In the third conversation, Jesus simply looked people in the eye and said, “Follow me.” You make a choice everyday about who you follow. Take a risk and follow Jesus. Find out for yourself if he’s going to really come through for you and back up his promise.

Two more words Jesus had just before his ascension were, “Go out.” You were wired by God to resonate with the challenge of bringing change to the world. With the help of God, an authentic faith, and courage to go out, you can be someone who sets in motion a chain reaction that will change a little corner of your world.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What good news have you received recently?

2. Matt shared that a friend recently said to him, “I don’t doubt Jesus came back to life. I just want to know what difference it can make in my life.” How would you respond to this?

3. Read Isaiah 41:10. What do you fear and how does it affect the way you live? Jesus’ resurrection allows us to face our fears with faith. How?

4. Read John 20:24-29. What does this reveal about Jesus’s compassion toward us in our times of doubt? Does this mean that Jesus will give us a tangible experience to relieve all of our doubts?

5. Read Matthew 16:24-27. What does this passage teach us about what it means to follow Jesus?

6. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What is one thing you can do this week in response to Jesus’ encouragement to “go out” that could start a chain reaction in your corner of the world?
NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

❏ I will use resurrection power to turn fear into faith in a particular area of my life.
❏ I will do the research to resolve my doubts about the Christian faith.
❏ I will follow Jesus and honor him in everything I do.
❏ I will go out and change my little part of the world.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

❏
❏
❏
❏
❏
❏