

April 14, 2019

Title: Easter Preparation

BIG IDEA

Don't forget Jesus came for you.

KEY VERSE: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. **(Colossians 1:13)**

SUMMARY

Easter is the most profound event in human history. It's the event that changed the entire world. It was the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Often times, we become so familiar with the story of Easter that we forget how profound it really is. Let's take some time and to remind ourselves of the significance of Easter.

KEY POINTS

1. Don't forget Jesus came for you.

Sometimes we make Easter about everyone else. Instead, remember that Easter is about how Jesus came for YOU! Even if you were the only person on this earth, He would have still come (1 Timothy 1:15-16). Jesus personally carried our sins and brought us home so we can live a free and abundant life (1 Peter 2:24-25, John 10:10). All of God came to rescue all of you. In Christ, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). When is the last time you thanked God for salvation?

2. Don't forget to invite them.

If we are going to be a movement of hope, we have to invite people to experience hope. We have been commissioned by God to go and bring people to Jesus (Matthew 28:19). An encounter with Jesus changes everything! Being a witness doesn't mean we have to be a good preacher and memorize a bunch of scripture, it simply means that we tell people about what He has done for us (Acts 1:8). No one is too far gone or too far lost that Jesus cannot reach and transform them.

Who do you have hope for? How are you going to invite others to join you for Easter?

3. Don't forget we are throwing a party.

Everyone wants to be invited to a party. When dead things come to life, we celebrate! At our family party we will serve our guests. Two practical ways to do that is to park far away and sit down close. The reason we do this is to make our new guests feel welcomed and valued. We will be kind to every individual we come in contact with. We will engage our faith. When we lean in and worship with passion, we will prove that Jesus is alive to us! When we engage our faith this Easter, prison doors will fall, and chains will break (Acts 16:25-26)! What will you do to prepare your heart for the party? How will you serve, be kind, and engage your faith at a new level?

In Closing

Take time with your group to process this: Who are you personally inviting to Easter? What is/are their names? Now, spend time as a group, praying for each one of these invites by name. Pray that the Lord will lead them to show up and that they will experience the hope of Jesus for themselves!

Other Scriptures (Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Peter 1:5-7,9, Psalm 51:12, John 1:41-42, John 4:28-30, Romans 10:13-15, Romans 1:16, Luke 14:16-17, Mark 10:45, Romans 2:4, Mark 6:5-6, Matthew 21:8-11, John 12:32)