

Small Group Notes2: April 2020

He is risen!

Matthew 28

Welcome:

This Easter there have been many reasons to feel concerned and even fearful. At the same time, we've gathered with Christians around the world to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Are the daily news reports and the accounts of Easter Sunday at odds with each other?

Is there a conflict between the anxiety, even despair, many are experiencing just now and the Easter message of hope?

Followers of Jesus are an Easter people.

We live with the knowledge that the suffering of Good Friday is a lived reality for too many of us. But we also live with the hope that the resurrection is for us too.

Opening Reading and Prayer

Read: Isaiah 53: 1-12

Can you think of some of the ways Jesus fulfilled the words spoken by Isaiah?

Let these words and thoughts guide you to pray.

Introduction:

Have you ever been in a situation that has been transformed by the sudden appearance of good news?

Perhaps you've been the victim of a surprise party! Or maybe a difficult work situation has been suddenly turned around.

Good news is powerful. It has the ability to transform people and situations almost in an instant.

Reading 1: Matthew 28: 1-20

- According to Matthew, what happened?
- Look up Mark 16: 1-11, Luke 24: 1-12 & John 20: 1-18.
- Can you list some of the ways these 4 Gospel accounts are similar to each other? In what ways are they different? How might we account for the differences? Does it matter?
- Return to Matthew 28. What were the women expecting as they approached the tomb? What did they discover?
- How did the authorities react to this situation? (Matthew 28: 11-15)
- What are we to do in response to this good news? (Matthew 28: 16-20)

Reading 2: Revelation 5: 1-14

- How do we respond to these verses?

Thought: “Therefore go and make disciples.....”

- Given the current restrictions, how might we obey this command from Jesus today?

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for our church family. May God grant healing to those who are unwell and protection over those we love.
- We pray for our national leaders in government, healthcare and science. May God provide healing for our Prime Minister and wisdom for those making decisions.

- We pray for all who are grieving the loss of people they loved and cared for.
- We pray for those who work in the NHS and pharmacies.

Closing Thought:

- John 11: 25-26: Jesus said to her: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?