

# EASTER



## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

What is your favorite childhood memory and why? Do you have a favorite Easter tradition or one you would like to start? Why?

### CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

**Read John 19:1-42 & John 20:1-18 as a group.**

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Take turns reading and really think about Jesus' sacrifice for us as you read.**

1. Phew! That was a lot of reading but good job, everyone! As you were reading and thinking about the sacrifice of Jesus, was there anything that stood out to you that you have never noticed before about the death and resurrection of Jesus?
2. Jesus made the ULTIMATE sacrifice. He traded in his life for us so we could live eternally with God. He died for us. Really think about that! **Can you think of anyone you would die for?** Maybe some of us can think of someone we would die for but some of us might think "absolutely not!" Whichever end you're on, really stop and think about it. Jesus died for you! **How does that make you feel to know that Jesus loved you so much that He died for you?**
3. There is debate about what the cross of Jesus actually looked like as He carried it through the town. Jesus is typically depicted as carrying the entire thing. If that had been the case, He would have been carrying up to 300 pounds of solid wood. The other school of thought is he only carried the part that His hands would have been nailed to because the other beam was already in the ground at the site. Even that one part of the cross would have weighed

anywhere from 75 to 125 pounds. Regardless, Jesus carried A LOT of weight so we could be forgiven. In Matthew 27:32, we get a glimpse of how human Jesus was. He needed help carrying the cross because it was so heavy. He had help with this burden of the physical cross but carried the burden of our sin. **What burdens do you need Jesus's help to carry?**

4. This week, we are talking about how the resurrection of Jesus breaks the power of our past. **Is there anything in your past that you are still holding onto that you need Jesus to help you break?** It could be something bad that happened that you need help letting go of or forgiving yourself. It could even be that you're living in the past. Maybe you feel high school or college were the good ol' days and you need help remembering the good ol' days are happening right now!
5. The resurrection gives us this new hope. A hope for a new future in the complete presence of God. With no pain, no suffering, no death, no mourning, no fear, no stress. This new hope should make us excited and joyful about what's to come. **How would you describe this hope to others if given the opportunity?**

## CALLING

- Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV) says, "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
  - This set of verses is called *The Great Commission*. Jesus commissions us to "go and make disciples." **Do you feel like you're doing this well right now? If not, what could you change to help make disciples?**
- **Daily Devotions:** Read and engage with the ICON Daily Devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 to have them texted to you each morning at 7:00AM or tap on Study in Northside's mobile app to find the Daily Devotions.
- **Further Study & Reflection:** Read *Preparing for Easter: Fifty Devotional Readings* by C.S. Lewis
- **Memorize:** "*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*" **Colossians 1:15 (NIV)**