

The Empty Tomb That Fills Us

Key Scriptures: John 20:1-18

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Exodus 33:20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

John. 14:4-6 where I go you know, and the way you know." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Jesus to be held in its power.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . ⁵⁵

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

NLT Romans 4:25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Romans 6:4 just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 7:4 that you may belong . . . to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

NLT Ephesians 3:19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Key Point: The resurrection changes everything. It guarantees our forgiveness, empowers us to change, and gives us a hope for the future.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is something small in life that really frustrates you when it is empty. . . and something that really satisfies you when it is full?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through John 20:1-18 as well as the key scriptures on the left and share any observations or questions with the group.

- In John 20, the empty tomb is described with careful physical details (linen cloths, folded face cloth). How do these details strengthen the case for the resurrection, and what do they rule out?
- When Mary Magdalene first saw the empty tomb, she assumed Jesus' body had been taken. Why do you think it was so hard for the disciples to believe in the resurrection, even after everything Jesus had said?
- John "saw and believed" when he looked into the tomb (John 20:8), yet there was still confusion. What does this teach us about the difference between belief, understanding, and full faith?
- The resurrection has faced many alternative explanations over time. Why do you think people continue to resist the idea that Jesus truly rose from the dead?
- Our deepest "emptiness" comes from sin. How do you define sin, and how does it contribute to brokenness, dissatisfaction, or emptiness in today's world?
- Psalm 16:11 connects fullness of joy with God's presence, yet Exodus 33:20 says no one can see God and live. How does the cross and resurrection of Jesus resolve this tension?
- The resurrection is presented as God's decisive victory over sin and death. How does the resurrection not only prove forgiveness but also accomplish something objectively for believers? (Rom 4:25, 6:4, 7:4, 2 Cor 4:14)
- Do you believe Jesus died and rose again for you personally? What does it look like to move from general belief to personal trust in the risen Christ?

Start doing: Begin intentionally seeking the presence of God each day, instead of trying to fill your emptiness with other things. Start each day "being still" before the Lord. Remind yourself: *Fullness is found in God, not in anything else I'm chasing.* Spend time in prayer and depend on Christ through the day.

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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