

## “\_\_\_\_\_ in the Shadow of the Cross”

Series: *Shadow of the Cross*

(Part 4 of 4)

**Open:** What does Easter mean to you personally?

**Explore:** Read Luke 24:13-35.

The death of Christ on the cross was a devastating blow to many. Men and women had left everything in order to become disciples of Jesus. His burial would have signaled the end and left his followers hopeless.

1. What were the two men traveling together discussing (vs. 13-16)? Who joined them as they walked along the road?
2. Why were the two men so crushed by the events of the past three days (vs. 17-21)?
3. What interesting report had they received from the tomb (21-24)? Do you think they believed the story? Why or why not?
4. How would you describe the tone of Jesus' response (25-35)? Why did the two men return to Jerusalem?

**Reflect:** Review key points from the lesson before answering the questions.

1. Easter celebrates the most important event in human history and yet it is extremely personal. What difference has the resurrection made in your life?
2. How do most people feel about their status with God? a) I'm not that bad, or b) I've done some good things. What does James 2:10 say about that?
3. What value do you think most people place on themselves (too high or too low)? Jesus went to the cross for the whole world, but he would've done it just for you. What does the cross say about the value God places on your soul?
4. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to each one of us. What does the burial say concerning the pain and suffering of life? Is there an area of your life in which you could use God's strength today?
5. Because of Christ, earth is as close to hell as we will ever get. However, without Christ, earth is as close to heaven as we will ever get. If you have not accepted Christ to be your Lord, what is holding you back?

**Apply:** Live it.

**As a CARE Group:** Easter is a reminder that God loves you, me, and our next door neighbors. Prayerfully consider who you will invite to the next group gathering.

**On your own:** Read through 1 Corinthians 15:13-19. Think about how the resurrection impacts our past, present, and future. In what way will the resurrection of Christ be exhibited in your life?

## Listening Guide Notes

<sup>[3]</sup> “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>[4]</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” –**1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV p. 801)**

**Easter gets personal...**

1. His cross: Jesus paid the price for me.

“\_\_\_\_\_ has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”  
–**Romans 3:23 (NIV p. 784)**

**Objections:**

- I'm not that bad!

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” –**James 2:10 (NIV p. 848)**

- I've done some good things!

“All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” –**Isaiah 64:6 (NIV p. 519)**

“The wages of sin is death.” –**Romans 6:23 (NIV p. 786)**

**Fact: Value is determined by what someone is willing to pay.**

“Jesus, with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.” –**Revelation 5:9 (NIV p. 864)**

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–**Revelation 5:9 (NIV p. 864)**

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”  
–**Acts 2:38 (NIV p. 759)**

2. His burial: Bad times don't last.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”  
–**John 16:33 (NIV p. 753)**

**3. His resurrection: My future is secure!**

*“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit, who lives in you.” –Romans 8:11 (NIV p. 786)*

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” –John 11:25 (NIV p. 749)*

*“For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_ that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”  
–John 3:16 (NIV p. 741)*