

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Before & After: The Empty Tomb

APRIL 20, 2014

This week's sermon follows the story of God's creative and redemptive plan as outlined through Scripture and remembered on the most celebrated day of the year. Though the narrative is told for all humanity, it is important for each person to recognize that this "universal God" works in individual lives.

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

From your own life, was there ever a time you sensed "hope was lost" or "defeat was near," only to overcome and experience "come-from-behind victory" in some way?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Take some time to rehearse the "Prologue and Two Acts" introduced in this week's sermon. Using a stop watch or second hand, take time as group members seeing how well you can tell the story in 2 minutes or less. (Have 3-4 try this.) **NOTE: Knowing how to tell God's story can be of great value in life.**

Did the 30,000 foot view of the Bible that Mike provided in the sermon reveal anything new to you?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Mike compared reading "only about Jesus" to trying to understand a whole movie by watching the last 15 minutes. What is missed about God's whole story if a person only reads from the New Testament?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Mike used a Jimi Hendrix illustration (possibly the first Easter-Hendrix illustration ever) to reveal that something that seemed worthless could get turned upside down and be entirely redeemed. Easter, the Cross, the Empty Tomb and the Resurrection are the ultimate turnaround from worthless to redeemed. How does the outcome of the Easter story matter to you in day-to-day living?

Each cardboard testimony that was shared in the Easter service described God's great work in a person's life. Can you tell the story of God's work in your life in a clear and compact way? (2-3 minutes)

DIGGING DEEPER

Peter, Stephen and Paul deliver quick overviews of HIS-story while under great duress. They faced the risk of rejection, imprisonment, even death. Yet the story of Scripture they told was clear and compelling. (Peter in Acts 2:14-41; Stephen in Acts 7:2-50; Paul in Acts 17:22-32) Outline their stories and share with each other the most important elements in the synthesized story of God's love.

GRADUATE LEVEL

Read Hebrews Chapter 10. How does the gruesome sounding passage that starts chapter 10 (Hebrews 10:1-18) combine with the rest of the chapter (Hebrews 10:19-39) to tell an amazing Easter story full of hope and instruction for an abundant life? How do you see the writer's intention with this chapter?

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICING

Take some time to consider your "cardboard testimony" and work to write it in a way that captures your journey in very few words. First write whatever reveals "My Past Situation" and then write the way you understand "God's Present Solution". Please share it if you would not mind – mwoodruff@cclf.org.

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