

E A S T E R

Beginning Again

INTRODUCTION

Jesus followers in the first century believed Jesus rose from the dead. They believed in this historical event many years before there was a Bible. They believed it beginning on the morning of the resurrection. And they did exactly what any of us would do if we saw a man raised from the dead: they talked about it, and they wrote about it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about your favorite childhood memory of Easter.
2. What Easter traditions do you currently observe? What do they mean to you?
3. *“We don’t believe in the resurrection because the Bible says it happened. We believe because eyewitnesses and people who met eyewitnesses wrote about it.”* Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
4. Read John 20:11–18. What details in the story stand out to you? Why do those details matter to you?
5. Is it difficult for you to believe that God hears your prayers? Why or why not?
6. In what area of your life does Jesus’ resurrection represent an opportunity for you to begin again? What is one thing you can do to begin that process? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Easter ties our faith to something that *happened* rather than to something we merely believe. The foundation of Christianity is not a belief. Something happened—something that addresses and diminishes our fear of loss. Because of the resurrection, you can pray knowing God hears your prayers. You can live knowing there is life beyond this life. You can sacrifice knowing your faithfulness matters.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

John 20:1