

Through the Storm

Life Beyond Your Wildest Dreams- Session #3

Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Are you more of a glass half-empty or half-full type of person? Are there times that you lean more one way versus another? Are there times when you have tried to be more one way on purpose?

Finish the following sentence: Life is _____. Explain your answer.

For this session, we are discussing the greatest moment in all of Scripture. The event that has changed hearts and history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ! We are also going to see how the resurrection account speaks to the times that we struggle in understanding in our life's moments our hopes, power, and authority.

Discuss:

1. Easter provides "hope" beyond your wildest dreams

- Read Matthew 27:62-28:1
- Hope is settled in the belief that in all circumstances, the best is yet to come! (1 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 6:19)
- The resurrection is the receipt proving Jesus is who he said he was and accomplished what he said he would do!
- Because of Easter, I am never without hope!
- Hope screams to use that God's plans are greater than our wildest dreams

Explain: On that early Sunday morning, with the trauma of seeing Jesus executed still fresh and raw, "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary" went to Jesus' tomb as was customary in their culture to care for the body. In one way their hope was crushed in seeing Jesus' death, and yet in another way it was going to be changed as they encounter our Risen Savior!

Ask:

What are sometimes that we can feel hopeless? How can we be more susceptible to the devil's influence in these moments? Are there moments when we can revert to customs or routines in our lives when things feel hopeless?

In what area of your life do you need the hope of Easter to penetrate? What difference does it make to know that you are never without hope?

2. Easter provides power beyond your wildest dreams!

- Read Matthew 28:2-6

- Easter says there is power beyond your wildest dreams to overcome any storm in your life (1 Corinthians 6:14; Philippians 3:10)

Explain: As the women questioned how they would be able to use their own power to see the body of Jesus (Mark 16:1-4). When they arrived, they encountered a “violent earthquake” and the startling appearance of a dazzling angel that affirmed the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Later we see how the ladies (particularly Mary Magdalene) has an encounter with Jesus and the power of Christ to overcome death and sin is on full display!

Ask:

For what reason did the angel tell the women they shouldn't be afraid? How can you be empathetic with what the women were experiencing? How would you have responded in that moment?

How is this simply the greatest news ever told? In what are of your life do you need the power of Easter to penetrate?

3. Easter provides “authority” beyond our wildest dreams!

- Read Matthew 28:7-10
- Most storms in our lives are stirred up due to a rejection of authority!
- Easter says sin has no authority over you!
- Easter says death has no authority over you! (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Explain: Jesus' resurrection from the death revealed not only His power over sin as our Savior but also His authority over death and sin and His lordship in our lives. Their response in that moment was worship as it says in verse 9. Then we also see how from his revelation of Himself shows His authority over our lives as he gave the commands for the women to “Go and tell the brethren (disciples).”

Ask:

How does it encourage you to know that God accepts your worship of Him even when it may be filled with doubts and questions? Has the authority of Easter penetrated your life?

Where have you experienced hope, power, and authority in Christ lately?

What would it look like for you to walk in resurrection power this week? Spend some time in prayer with one another to encourage us to live in His power and not ours!