



1. Easter is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you? Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. According to this passage, what things would be true if Jesus did not rise from the dead? Why would these things be true if Jesus did not rise from the dead? Why is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead so vital?
2. Read Matthew 28:11-15. When the Roman guards went to report the resurrection to the religious leaders, what did the religious leaders do? Why was it important for the leaders to speak on the guards' behalf if the governor heard the story they were supposed to tell?
3. Pastor Rick said that if you are looking for satisfaction in life from money, a job, a house, a car, etc. you are looking for the living among the dead, just like the angel said to the disciples at Jesus' tomb. What do you think he meant by that?
4. It is a fact of history that most of the people who were Jesus' disciples when he was alive were later killed for preaching about Jesus, either by the Jews or the Romans. Only one of the apostles, John, experienced a natural death. Why do you think this is a powerful proof that Jesus did rise from the dead?
5. What fears do you have at this time? Pastor Rick said that the fact of the resurrection should calm our fears. What were the four ways that Jesus can calm our fears? Which one resonates the most with you? Discuss what fears each of these four things can alleviate.

## ANSWERS

1. In this passage, if Jesus did not rise from the dead then: Preaching the gospel is useless; our faith in Christ is in vain; your sins have not been taken away; believers in Christ who have already died are lost, they have no salvation; of everyone on earth, those of us who believe in Christ should be pitied because we are trusting in a dead man. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then he is no different than any other human who has died and trusting in him brings nothing. The resurrection is vital to the gospel message; it confirms that everything Jesus said is true. It proves he is God, Jesus' resurrection shows that the penalty for sin was paid; it guarantees that Jesus defeated death he has the power to resurrect us; our preaching of the gospel is the most important thing we can do; our faith will bring us salvation; of everyone on earth we are to be envied because we will live forever in heaven.
2. The religious leaders told the Roman guards to report that his disciples had come and stolen the body while they were asleep. The reason they would need to cover for the guards was as a Roman guard, if you fell asleep while on duty you were flogged and beaten. There would have been at least 20 guards on duty and if they had allowed the disciples to sneak in and steal the body, they would have been put to death for dereliction of duty.
3. Only something that is perfect and alive can give life to anybody. Only God can give true life and satisfaction to us. If we are looking for something to give meaning to our lives that is not perfect and is not alive like a house, money, a job, etc., we will be unsuccessful and disappointed. We are looking for life in things that cannot give life. Something must be alive to give life.
4. If those early disciples had not actually seen Jesus after his resurrection, and if they knew that he had not really risen from the dead, then would they have been willing to give their very lives for something they knew was not true? Would you?
5. The four ways Jesus calms our fears are: A. Jesus calms my fear by proving He is always in control. B. Jesus calms my fears by promising victory over death. C. Jesus calms my fears by paying the price for my sins. D. Jesus calms my fears by pouring his Holy Spirit into my life.