



SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 28

October 28, 2018

For starters:

What do you like to do first thing in the morning? Why?

Of all the news headlines each week, which ones do you read first and why?

Interaction with the text: Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the ESV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Which person in this passage would you most like to interview for a news story on the Resurrection?
2. How do the following people react to the news of the Resurrection: The women? The guards? The chief priests? The disciples?
3. Why did Jesus appear to the women before he appeared to his own disciples? In light of Matt 4:10, what is the significance of the fact they worshiped Jesus?
4. Why would the chief priests and others prefer to believe the falsified story?
5. Upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, how do the disciples respond (v 17)? Why is doubt mingled in their worship? What do they doubt?
6. What is the central command Jesus gives his disciples? How are they to carry this out?
7. How important is it to your faith that the tomb is empty? How would you explain the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit to a non-Christian?
8. How did the reality of Jesus' resurrection "dawn" upon you? Did God "burst forth" into your heart or did you "get off the fence" over time? Elaborate.
9. In what ways can you fulfill or teach the Great Commission in the classroom that is your life? In your work? Community? Family?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Thank Him for His life-giving presence in your life. Continue to ask for "eyes to see" and "ears to hear," as God certainly will have us cross paths with "unreached" persons in our life. Where can you demonstrate the love of God in Christ this week - perhaps an opportunity will come when you least expect it? The Holy Spirit is in you thus you are all ready. Now go forth with the knowledge of the certainty of the power of the Lord God Almighty both with you and for you.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).