



SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 28

October 27, 2019

For starters:

Have you ever sat with someone who was dying? What was it like?

What do you like to do on Sunday mornings? What is your preferred routine, etc?

What was one of the most incredible events you have ever seen? What makes it memorable to this day?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text *and surrounding passage*. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud and slowly the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

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 and prayed, what points and questions arise from your group? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may give guidance in the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. If you could, which person in this passage would you most like to have lunch with so you could learn first hand the story of the Resurrection? Why this person?
2. How do the 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 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 come to your belief over time? Elaborate.
9. In what ways can you share the Great Commission in your world? In your work? Community? Family?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for our time together and thank you that we can be a part of the great adventure that is faith in you. Bring your resurrection power into every area of our lives where we desire your influence to take over. Bring us to our knees in prayer and thanksgiving and help us to remember your great love for your servants. Bring renewal to our hearts and minds that sharing about you and your love will easily flow from our actions and our words. Bring a renewed excitement and joy in our partnership with your great mission in this world - that all may know you and discover the true life in abundance, in Jesus' name, amen.

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