

Introduction:

Easter is the day everything changes. When Jesus' followers arrived at the tomb that morning, they expected to find death; instead, they found life. For us, where we expect to find punishment, we can now find freedom; where we expect law, we now find grace; what we once strived to earn, we now accept freely. Those early followers were characters in a story with an ending no one expected: the tomb was empty. Today, we have a chance to be a part of that story as well.

Scripture:

Luke 24:5-6 - "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Discussion Questions:

1. As you were growing up, did you celebrate Easter? What are the Easter memories that stand out to you?
2. What do you think was going through the mind of those followers who showed up to the tomb looking for Jesus on that first Easter morning?
3. These followers must have experienced a flood of emotions that day and in the days that followed. Surely at some point, they all experienced a sense of awe that left them saying only "wow!" What was the last event you witnessed that left you saying "wow?"
4. The Easter story is powerful and different people tend to see themselves in different parts of it; different people may internalize the story differently. Which part of the Easter story affects you most?
5. How does the Easter story and the fact the tomb is empty impact your normal, everyday life?

Take the Next Step:

What step can you take this week to make the story of Easter a larger part of your story?