

King's Chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 23, 2017

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the eternal Son of God who defeated sin, Satan, and death; and it is by trusting in his work of redemption on the cross and in his resurrection, that we can be accepted by God.

This Week's Text: John 20:1-18

"A man will be justified by faith when, excluded from righteousness of works, he by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, and clothed in it appears in the sight of God not as a sinner, but as righteous. Thus, we simply interpret justification as the acceptance with which God receives us into his favor as if we were righteous; and we say that justification consists in the forgiveness of sins and imputation of the righteousness of Christ." **John Calvin**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What is culturally significant about the fact that Mary Magdalene is the first eyewitness to the risen Lord? How does Mary's testimony, Peter and John's testimonies, the folded grave clothes, and the absence of the Roman guards at the empty tomb lend credibility to the resurrection narrative? Do you find the evidence compelling?
- What are some ways our culture tells us to "find ourselves," that is, define our purpose, value, significance, and self-fulfillment? What does this teach us about the human condition? Contrast this with the gospel – Christ's call to be united with him in his death and resurrection.
- Did John and the other New Testament writers give a metaphorical/allegorical interpretation of Jesus' resurrection? Why is it important to believe in the literal, historic reality of Jesus' bodily resurrection? Reference John 20:27-28, John 21:1-14, and 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.
- Discuss and celebrate the following truth: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the grounds of our acceptance before God." How can we as sinners be declared righteous ("justified") by a holy God? Reference Romans 3:23-24; 5:1,18. What's the difference between *infused* righteousness and *imputed* righteousness?

- Have you trusted in Jesus Christ so that his righteousness – seen in his perfect, law-keeping life, atoning sacrificial death, and resurrection – has been accounted to you for the forgiveness of your sins?
- How does the resurrection validate Jesus' teachings and his identity as the eternal Son of God? Does this change the way you've thought about yourself, about the Scriptures, and about Jesus up to this point in your life?
- What kind of body does the resurrected Christ have? Reference John 20:19 and Luke 24:38-43. As believers who are united with Christ in his death and resurrection, what is our future hope? Reference 1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 15:20.
- Do you meditate on this gospel daily and allow it to comfort you during struggles, hardships, and doubt? Who do you know that desperately needs to hear about Jesus' love and the eternal hope that can only be found only in Jesus' death and resurrection?