

Sermon-based Small Group Guide - Week of Sunday, March 23rd

Sermon Title: Resurrection Math

Scripture Texts: John 20:1-31

In the sermon, John shared how he and his sisters had different approaches to entering the cold Pacific Ocean. How do you tend to enter the ocean or a swimming pool? Do you ease in slowly or jump in all at once? Is your approach to the water similar to how you approach situations in life in general, or not?

Read John 20:1-31

As you listen, note how each character responds to the death of Jesus and to the news that he is alive. What happens in each case to cause the person(s) to “get it” that Jesus is alive?

Mary

John the beloved disciple

Peter

Thomas

Other disciples

Discuss how each character approached the situation.
Which character do you identify with the most? Why?

In your math education were you taught that there was only one approach to getting the answer or were you taught a variety of approaches and given freedom to choose?

In your faith education were you taught that there is only one approach to faith or have you been taught that there is a variety of approaches?

How does seeing the variety of responses demonstrated by the characters in this scripture passage affect your understanding of how we come to faith in Jesus? Does it give you freedom or confuse you?

John suggested that even though these characters had different paths through this situation they experienced common starting and ending points. They all started, following the death of Jesus, in a place of sadness, disappointment and pain. And, they all ended with belief in Jesus as Lord and Son of God.

Do you have a place of sadness, disappointment or pain in your life right now?

How does your ability to believe that Jesus is alive affect how you respond to this situation?

What questions, doubts or fears are you working through on the path to believing that Jesus' resurrection makes a difference in this situation?

Each of these characters had a personal encounter with Jesus to bring them to the knowledge that he is alive. How have you encountered the living Jesus personally?

Do you know someone at work, in your neighborhood or in your family who is experiencing sadness, disappointment or pain? Is there some way you can share your personal encounters with the living Jesus with them so they begin to expect to encounter him in their life? Is there some way you can be the living Jesus to them?

Pray together!