

#### WARM-UP QUESTION

- When you think about Easter, what has most shaped your understanding of it: tradition, personal experience, or something else? Why?
- 

#### DISCUSS

##### 1. The Easter Story: More Than a Moment

Pastor Ken walked through the familiar story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. What may feel like a well-known narrative is actually the defining moment of our faith. The resurrection is not just an event to remember; it is the foundation for a new beginning.

Read John 20:1.

- Why do you think the resurrection, not the crucifixion, is meant to be the defining moment for believers?
  - How can past disappointment or pain shape the way we see our future?
  - What does it mean for you personally that Easter represents a new beginning?
- 

##### 1. Thomas: From Doubt to Belief

Thomas is often remembered for his doubt, but his story reveals something deeper. He was loyal, honest, and willing to ask hard questions. When Jesus met him face to face, He did not reject Thomas' doubts. He stepped into them.

Read John 20:27–29.

- Why do you think Thomas struggled to believe, even after hearing the other disciples' experiences?
- How does Jesus' response to Thomas change the way you view doubt?
- Have you ever had a moment where something shifted from intellectual belief to personal conviction?

Pastor Ken emphasized that Thomas moved from seeing Jesus' wounds as proof of power to experiencing them as proof of love. That moment changed everything.

- Why is it significant that the evidence Thomas saw led him to worship, not just belief?

---

### 1. Mary: From Desperation to Purpose

Mary Magdalene approached the tomb from a completely different place. While Thomas doubted, Mary was desperate. She came grieving, confused, and searching.

Read John 20:16–18.

- Why do you think Mary did not recognize Jesus at first?
- What changed when Jesus called her by name?
- How have you experienced God meeting you personally, not just generally?

Pastor Ken pointed out that Mary's breakthrough came not from her finding Jesus, but from Jesus calling her.

- What does it mean that our relationship with God begins with Him seeking us first?
  - How does Mary's story show both peace and purpose being restored?
- 

### 1. Two Perspectives, One Invitation

Thomas and Mary represent two ends of the spectrum. One struggled with doubt, the other overflowed with devotion. Most of us fall somewhere in between.

- Do you relate more to Thomas or Mary right now? Why?
- What does it look like for Jesus to meet you right where you are in your current season?
- How can being honest about your doubts or desires actually draw you closer to God?

Pastor Ken reminded us that Jesus sees beyond our fear, hurt, or uncertainty. He sees who we are and invites us into a deeper relationship.

---

### 1. A New Beginning Through Christ

Easter is not just about what happened then; it is about what is possible now. The resurrection marks a turning point where death, disappointment, and the past no longer have the final word.

Read Jeremiah 29:13.

- What does it look like to search for God with all your heart in a practical way?
- What might be holding you back from fully receiving God's grace?
- How does understanding God's love change the way you live moving forward?

Pastor Ken emphasized a clear pattern: we recognize and receive God's grace, we

grow in it, and then we share it with others.

- Where are you in that process right now?
- 

#### CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I am searching honestly and want to know if Jesus is real and trustworthy.
  - I need to move from doubt to belief and trust Jesus more deeply.
  - I need to receive God's grace instead of trying to earn it.
  - I feel distant and want a personal encounter with Jesus.
  - I am ready to live differently because of what Jesus has done.
- 

#### PRAYER

Close by thanking God for the gift of Jesus and the power of the resurrection. Thank Him that He meets us in both our doubt and our desperation. Ask Him to reveal Himself in personal and undeniable ways. Pray for the courage to receive His grace, to trust Him fully, and to live a life changed by a real encounter with Christ.