

THE GOSPEL

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24
AT 8:00, 9:30 AND 11:00AM

The Story

Part 1

Read It Up

Isaiah 1:18; 64:6

Colossians 1:15, 18–22

Romans 3:10, 23

Start It Up

What do you remember about Easter observances when you were growing up?

Talk It Up

1. Read John 1:18 and contrast it with Colossians 1:15, 19. What do these verses suggest is the reason Jesus came?
2. How does it make you feel to hear that God wants us to know that He's involved and that He wants us to know Him?
3. How do you respond to the charge that all religions are the same?
4. Read Isaiah 53:5, then recount what you can of what a crucifixion was like. As you do, think prayerfully about Jesus' experiencing this on our behalf. What is your response?
5. Christians believe that Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story (Col. 1:18). But a resurrection is a hard thing to wrap our minds around! What are some other explanations that have been given for the empty tomb? Why don't those theories hold up?

6. The bad news is that without Jesus, we are alienated from God because of our evil behavior (Col. 1:21; also Isaiah 1:18; 64:6; Romans 3:10, 23). What's the good news? What will you do about it?

Think It Up

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” —Luke 24:1–7 Don't let Easter pass by in a rush. Spend some time this week really pondering the Resurrection. Thank God that He came in our direction!

Pray It Up

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” —Romans 10:9–10

Step It Up

Whom do you know who needs to hear the story that Jesus came, was crucified, was resurrected, and can give us new life? What will you do this week to tell the story?