



"He is not here; He is risen!" The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the greatest event in the history of the world. But our resurrection from baptism identifies us as Jesus-people. What do we leave behind, and what do we take with us?

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

- (1) What are some of your favorite memories of Easter growing up?
- (2) What do you remember about your baptism?

BAPTISM AND RESURRECTION.

Read Romans 6:1-6. How is our baptism like a death and resurrection? Why does Paul connect our baptism with the experience of Jesus? How does this give you hope?

WE LEAVE OUR PAST BEHIND US.

Read Matthew 28:1-10. Notice that the angels says "Jesus WAS crucified. He IS not here, he HAS risen...go and there you WILL see him." **Read Philippians 3:4-15; Colossians 3:1-4.** Why is it so hard to leave the past behind? Why is it so important to leave the past behind? **Read Romans 6:6-7.** How is the new me "no longer me"?

WE LEAVE OUR PANIC BEHIND US.

Read Mark 16:1-8. The angel said "do not be alarmed." But they left "afraid." **Read Deut 46:3; Joshua 10:25; Psalm 27:1; Mark 6:50.** Why is it important for Christians to no longer "be afraid"? **Read Romans 8:31-39.** How does the example of early martyrs challenge us to be strong and courageous?

WE LEAVE OUR PREJUDICE BEHIND

US. Read Luke 24:1-12. Notice that the women tried to witness, but "these words seemed like an idle tale." Why is prejudice (toward women, minorities, or anyone) such a problem? **Read Galatians 3:26-29; Rev 7:9.** Why must the church recognize the "one-ness" of believers? How can the church display the "every tribe, tongue, and nation" vision of the kingdom of God?

WE LEAVE OUR POSSESSIONS

BEHIND US. Read John 20:1-10. Both Peter and the other disciple notice the grave clothes are left behind. Why is it significant that Jesus brought nothing out of the tomb except himself? **Read Matthew 6:24 & Luke 12:15; John 12:3.** How can the American dream choke out our living hope?

WE TAKE THE SPIRIT'S POWER

WITH US. Read Acts 1:8; 2:38; Eph 1:8-11; Rom 8:8-11. The only thing we raise up with—is the Spirit's power. Just like Jesus. Why is this good news?