

A NEW DAY DAWNING

MATTHEW 28

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus is risen! At the cross, Christ defeated sin; at the empty tomb, He defeated death. A new day dawned when Christ rose.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

The world is full of fear. From global to personal fears, how do people tend to face their fears?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we no longer need to live in fear. How does the resurrection of Jesus replace fear with faith? How have you experienced this?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 28:1-10

The disciples were filled with fear and uncertainty after the crucifixion of Christ. In what way were the disciples confused about Christ's mission? What does the resurrection reveal? Like the disciples, how does this remind you that God's plans are better than your plans?

Pastor Greg mentioned the prophecies about Jesus, explaining how "Jesus is concealed in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament." How does the resurrection of Jesus prove that God keeps His promises?

Pastor Greg said, "This is the whole point of Easter: death does not have the last word—Easter does. Death died when Christ rose. Easter is the death of death." Why will the Christian never die spiritually (John 11:25-26)? How do you stay focused on

this truth when celebrating Easter?

Faith gives way to fear; trust gives way to worry. What is so simple and powerful about Jesus' command, "Do not be afraid" (v.10)? How does this help you turn panic into prayer, worry into worship, and fear into faith?

Read Psalm 90:9–12 and Revelation 1:17–18. You can't choose the date of your birth or death, but you can shape the dash in the middle. How does Christ's resurrection give you a new perspective on life and death?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How does the yearly rhythm of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday help you stay focused on the truth that a new day has dawned? How can you have this focus every Sunday as the church gathers to worship the risen Lord?

Pastor Greg said, "If Jesus can conquer death itself, He can handle whatever you're facing" (Romans 8:31–32). How does the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection give you a *living* hope (1 Peter 1:3)? How are you hopeful that a new day is dawning?

PRAYER

Give thanks that Jesus is risen! Praise God that He defeated sin and death. Pray for a renewed focus to live for the risen Christ and to have an eternal perspective.