

Look Back

- Group check in...just for fun...tell one of the most embarrassing moments you've experienced. :)
- Last week we simply read through the death and resurrection narrative of Jesus. Following that, we prayed together. Have each person share with the group one thing that has resonated with you over the last week or two during Easter season.

Look Up

Imagine the man you had followed for three years, laughed with, ate with and sweat with; the man you watched do miracles and heard teach controversial but authoritative teachings on the Kingdom of God and how that Kingdom has come here on earth; imagine you watch him suffer and die a brutal death and then walk out of the grave he was put in but then just over a month later he disappears into the sky. Imagine. What emotions would you feel? What thoughts would you have? Would you get a little cranky with underlying tension of not knowing what to do now? What would the hushed conversations in your kitchen sound like? What would going back to work the next day feel like? Imagine.

That's where we find the apostles and early church now. Remember, this is the early church - this is us a couple of thousand years ago. Today we read what happened after Jesus' departure on the Mount of Olives. Is there hope for me from here on out? Is there hope for my day in and day out interactions with people and for my future for my community? If so, what does it look like? Think through this and discuss as you read from today's Scripture.

Read: **Acts 1:1-26** In it's entirety!

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people (and yourself)?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- As we see what the early church did in the days following Jesus' ascension, is there indication that they have hope? If so, what is it? Do you have the same hope today in your day to day life?
- There's a stark contrast between how Peter and Judas responded to Jesus during this time. What's the difference? What can you learn from this in your life?
- Who do you need to share this message of hope with this week? If you cannot think of anyone who needs to hear this message this week, then what can that tell us about our community / circle of friends? (*SGL NOTE: encourage people in your group to name those people and then next week follow up to see if they did get to share this those people.*)

Pray for the group...thanking God for the hope we personally can have in him through Jesus!