

RESURRECTION FREEDOM

EASTER SUNDAY: RESURRECTION FREEDOM

Thanks for making Sunday such a great experience! It was your service, invitations, leadership, heart, and prayers that made it what it was. We had over 1000 in attendance with many first-timers and many encountering God in personal ways. In lifegroup over the next few weeks, then, we want to pay attention to fostering a space that's inviting to newcomers and helps our folks keep reaching out to those around them. This week we'll be continuing the theme Pastor John preached on during the Easter Sunday service about how Jesus takes our baggage away.

FAMILY TIME

If you've got newcomers you'll want to make sure to cast vision for this:

- Praise reports: a way for us to encourage each other about what God is doing and to build our faith for continuing to pray.
- Prayer requests: a chance for us to pray for each other and watch these prayer requests become future praise reports.

INTRODUCTION QUESTION

- If you've got newcomers who came to Easter Sunday: What was your highlight from Easter Sunday?
- If you don't have any newcomers: What have you experienced and/or learned over the last month as we've gone through the Easter curriculum and committed to praying for those around us and stepping out to invite them to encounter Jesus? (We want this to become a part of who we are so make sure to encourage folks to keep praying for those around them, engaging in courageous conversations, and looking for opportunities to invite them to encounter Jesus.)

DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDY

We're switching back to a large group, discussion based Bible study, as this may create a less intimidating environment for newcomers than a DBS. You can find study sheets to printout below. It could also help to cast vision for this time to be one where all of us can study the text together and engage with each other. Let's encourage folks to jump in and to know that we want them to contribute and that what they say matters.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13** The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father— and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must

bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17** The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” - John 10:7-18

Key discussion questions:

- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What do we learn about the thieves and robbers? Who might this be in our world today?
- Why has Jesus come? What kind of life does Jesus want us to have?
- What does it mean when Jesus calls himself the “good shepherd”?
- Who are the other sheep Jesus is wanting to bring into his pen?

Reflection questions:

- What does it mean to me that Jesus has come that I might have life and have it to the full (v. 10)? How can I position myself to receive the full life Jesus desires for me?
- What does this mean for those around me (including those on my prayer map)? How can I actively help others receive the full life Jesus desires for them?

SMALL GROUP

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share on the reflection questions and to pray for each other to receive the full life Jesus desires for us and for each other to help those around us receive the full life Jesus desires for them.

John 10:7-18

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