

TALK IT OVER

Expecting a Resurrection When Life Falls Apart

Special Easter Services During 2020 COVID Pandemic

Rick Warren

Easter April 12, 2020

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the three essential questions on the following page.

Message Notes

ON FRIDAY: DAYS OF FEAR & PAIN *(Find this portion of the message at 10:06)*

1. I need to reach out to friends
2. I need to reach out to God

3 THINGS TO PRAY

- Affirm God's power: I know you can do anything!
- Express your desire: I don't want this pain!
- Offer your trust: I want your will, not mine

Talk It Over

"Jesus took his disciples with him to Gethsemane and said, 'Stay here with me while I pray.' Then he took Peter, James, and John a little further. He was filled with anguish and deep distress, and he said to them, 'My heart is so overwhelmed and crushed with sorrow that I feel like I'm dying. Just sit here and watch with me.' Then Jesus took a few more steps, fell to the ground and prayed. . ." Matthew 26:36-39

Question 1:

Why was it important for Jesus to take his disciples with him to the Garden of Gethsemane? When you are going through a hard time, is your normal response to reach out for support or to try to go through it alone? Why does it matter in times of crisis to be honest in prayer and open with trusted friends?

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Question 2:

What does it mean to 'carry each other's burdens'? How can you live out this command to fulfill the law of Christ during the Covid-19 pandemic?

"Since Jesus went through suffering and temptation, he knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted, and he is able to help us." Hebrews 2:18

Question 3:

What is Jesus able to do for us and why? How does this knowledge increase our confidence in him?

ON SATURDAY: DAYS OF CONFUSION & GRIEF *(Find this portion of the message at 18:05)*

3. I need to remember the promises of God

Talk It Over

"Jesus said, 'Here's what's going to happen: Soon I'll be gone and you'll be without me, but after a while, you'll see me again...You will weep and mourn and grieve . . .but your grief will eventually turn into joy. It will be like a woman going through labor pains. When her child is finally born, her anguish turns to joy because the new life wipes out the memory of the pain. In the same way, you'll go through sorrow now, but I'll be back and you will rejoice; and no one will be able to rob you of that joy!'" John 16:16, 20-22

Question 4:

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of us are overwhelmed with the unknown state of our future. Instead, we can hang on to what we know to be true. Which truths about God bring you comfort?

"For all the promises of God find their 'yes' in Jesus Christ!" 2 Corinthians 1:20

Question 5:

Since Jesus puts the "yes" to all of God's promises,, how can getting to know the Word of the One who turns crucifixions into resurrections better equip us for helping ourselves and others in times of crisis?

ON SUNDAY: DAYS OF FREEDOM & JOY *(Find this portion of the message at 27:15)*

4. I need to rely on the power of Jesus

Talk It Over

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live again. I give them eternal life for believing in me and they will never perish!'" John 11:25-26

"I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. . ." Ephesians 1:19-20

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com

Question 6:

The word “death” has dominated most newscasts during the coronavirus crisis. What does Jesus’ resurrection tell us about death that can help us move from Friday and Saturday living to the peace, freedom, and joy of Sunday?

Question 7:

What steps do you need to take this Easter to turn the management of your life over to Jesus completely? If you’ve done that already, what signs, as Rick said, are people most likely to read? Who do you know who also needs to be set free from worry and fear, and how can you encourage them to make this decision?

Question 8:

This Easter, the churches are closed, and for the first time in 2000 years they will stand empty. Rejoicing, we can say that so is the grave! Who will you share this good news with?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

Actions Steps

1. Did you make a decision to recommit or give your life to Jesus Christ? Text NEWSTART to 99000 or email newstart@saddleback.com.
2. We express our gratitude to God through our giving. You can give online here: <https://saddleback.com/give>.
3. Join a small group. Text SMALLGROUP to 99000 or email smallgroup@saddleback.com.
4. If you want prayer: Text PRAYER to 99000 or email prayer@saddleback.com.
5. Rick asked us to rely on the promises of God. Plan this week to memorize Isaiah 43:2-3 and Isaiah 61:3 in order to share with someone who needs Jesus.

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