

# WHY JESUS?

## CHAIN-BREAKER

### What in the world is Easter all about?

- One sentence: Jesus came back to life after He died.
- One word: Resurrection. This comes from the word resurgence, coming back or rising up. Jesus came back never to die again.

### Do you recognize Jesus as the real deal?

**John 20:1-10 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" <sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. <sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— <sup>9</sup> for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then they went home.

### Proof of the Power

- The TRANSFORMATION of the disciples.
- Personal EMPOWERMENT. He died and rose again to offer, through His blood and His life, a NEW LIFE.

**Acts 2:22-24, 32, 36 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup> "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. <sup>23</sup> But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. <sup>24</sup> But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ... <sup>32</sup> "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ... <sup>36</sup> "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

- His WITNESSES.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup> He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time...

### When Jesus is having a conversation with Thomas He says this...

**John 20:24-29 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" <sup>28</sup> "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

- That's us and it requires a step of faith.

### Additional Notes:

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### scriptures that relate

Monday: John 16	Wednesday: John 18	Friday: John 20
Tuesday: John 17	Thursday: John 19	Saturday: John 21

### small groups—talk it over

1. Why is the resurrection so pivotal in the Christian faith?
2. Where do you see the power of God?
3. What does the empowerment of God mean?
4. How would you share with someone that Jesus is in fact real?
5. What chains do you routinely wear that need to be broken?

### missions prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray for missionaries to stay focused on God and His plans above all else.

**Tuesday:** Pray for them to spend time in the Word and ask God to give them discernment.

**Wednesday:** Pray for them to humbly ask God for wisdom in carrying out their assignment.

**Thursday:** Pray for boldness in the missionaries when they share the Gospel or preach.

**Friday:** Pray for missionaries to model loving God completely and others as themselves.

**Saturday:** Ask God to help them recognize their need for weekly rest from their responsibilities.