



No Resurrection, No Relationship, No Intimacy

WORSHIP: All the Earth will sing/ Great God/ Stronger / At the Cross

WELCOME: Count Your Blessings – A Christian Egg Hunt

Traditionally, Resurrection Sunday is celebrated going treasure hunting for those sought after colored eggs. Some of these eggs are brightly colored, others dark colored. For our treasure hunt, we look into our life and make a list of our treasures – brightly colored eggs for our blessings and dark colored eggs for our crosses. See attached page for the activity. Please try to complete this before coming to dgroup meeting.

WORD:

“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the ^[c]cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” ¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” Genesis 3: 8-11

- Adam and eve had it all. They had the whole garden at their disposal but most importantly they had the presence of God. They walked with God, talked with God but then, they disobeyed God and lost it all.

“So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life” Genesis 3:24

- God had to drive them out of the garden because now they had sinned against God. Adam and Eve only ate the forbidden fruit once. Just once. This implies that even just one sin is enough to separate us from God.
- Separation from God means death!
- Unless we realize that we are desperately hopeless, the problem we have is that we tend to compare ourselves with other people. We are better than other people. But by God’s standards, we won’t make the grade because we are sinners. Romans 5:12

- Until we realize that we have lost everything, we will not appreciate the resurrection because we think we are capable of establishing an intimate relationship with God.

“And you ^[a]were dead ^[b]in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the ^[c]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 2:1-2

- We need to realize that sin brings death and if we have sinned even once in our lifetime, we have lost it all and have no hope of salvation.
- We become spiritual zombies.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“and He Himself ^[x]bore our sins in His body on the ^[y]cross, so that we might die to ^[z]sin and live to righteousness; for by His ^[aa]wounds you were healed” 1 Peter 2:24

- God sent Jesus to become the embodiment of our sin.
- Imagine what Jesus had to give up in order to prove to us how much God wants us to have an intimate relationship with him.

“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” John 17:5

“Now from the ^[a]sixth hour darkness ^[b]fell upon all the land until the ^[c]ninth hour. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” Matthew 27:45-46

- Jesus left the glory that He shared with God the Father when He was in heaven. He left all of that just for you and me.
- Jesus took all of our sins upon himself and brought it with him on that cross

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” John 19:30

- And in the end, He completed the work of redemption that God the Father had planned for mankind in the Garden of Eden.
- It is finished it is paid in full.

“when you were dead ^[k]in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Colossians 2: 13-14

- Jesus paid for each and every sin of each and every human being. He brought it with him to the cross and His death became full payment for all our sins and God cancelled the law of sin that was set against us by crucifying his own son, Jesus on that cross.

Discussion:

1. What does Jesus Christ’s resurrection mean to me?
2. How has my life changed since coming to know Christ?
3. Do I continue to have reservations to follow Jesus? What is holding me back from committing my life to God?

WORKS:

This Resurrection Sunday, take time to meditate and ponder on the treasures in your life.

1. What are my blessings? What are my crosses?
2. Am I ready to accept God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ?
3. Have I really accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior?
4. How do I commit to pursue intimacy with God?

Spend time in prayer and reflection, seek God and in repentance receive God’s empowering grace for sanctification. Ask God for the grace of pursuing intimacy with Him. Ask your Dgroup and your accountability partner to pray with you as you re-commit and surrender your life to Jesus.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead ^[a]in our transgressions, made us alive together ^[b]with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” Ephesians 2:4-6

- Even if we lost it all because of sin, Jesus paid for it all so that we could have it all.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20

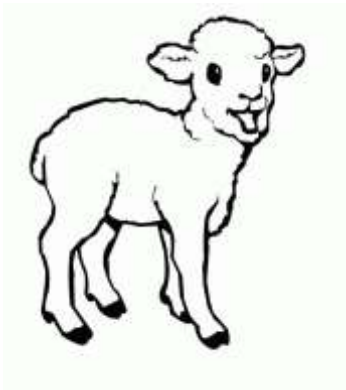
- God invites us to intimacy thru Jesus Christ. He knocks, we respond.
- The picture of dining together is one of intimacy for you do not just ask anyone to come into your home and dine with you. You only invite those people with whom you want to be intimate.

“But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ ^[a]that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, ^[b]resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, ^[c]resulting in salvation.” Romans 8:8-10

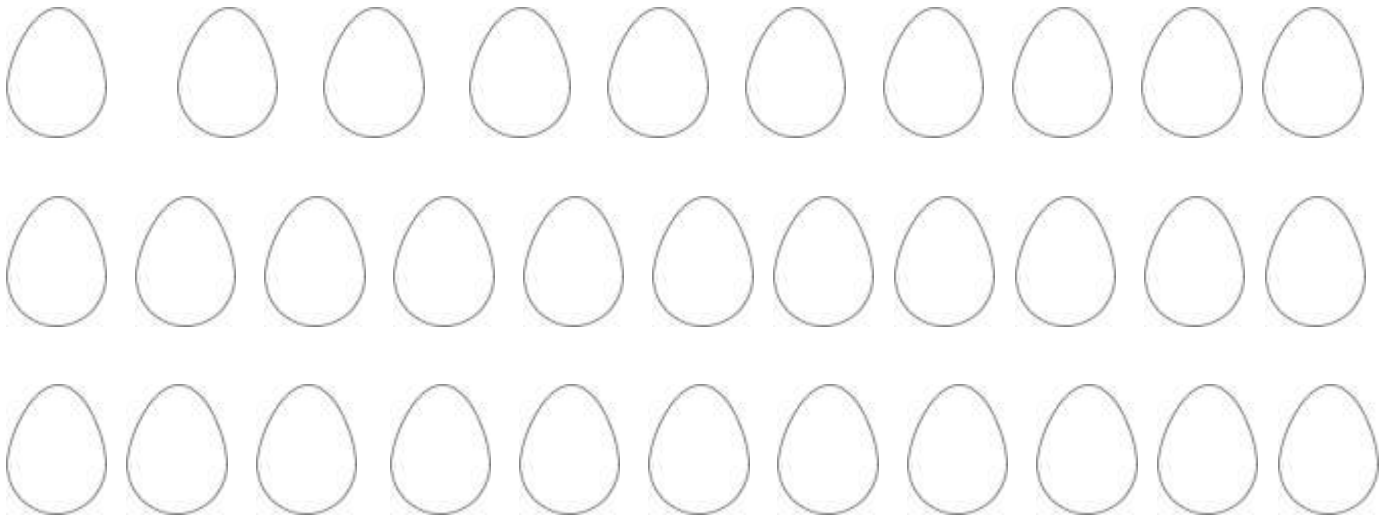
NO RESURRECTION, NO RELATIONSHIP, NO INTIMACY WITH GOD.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

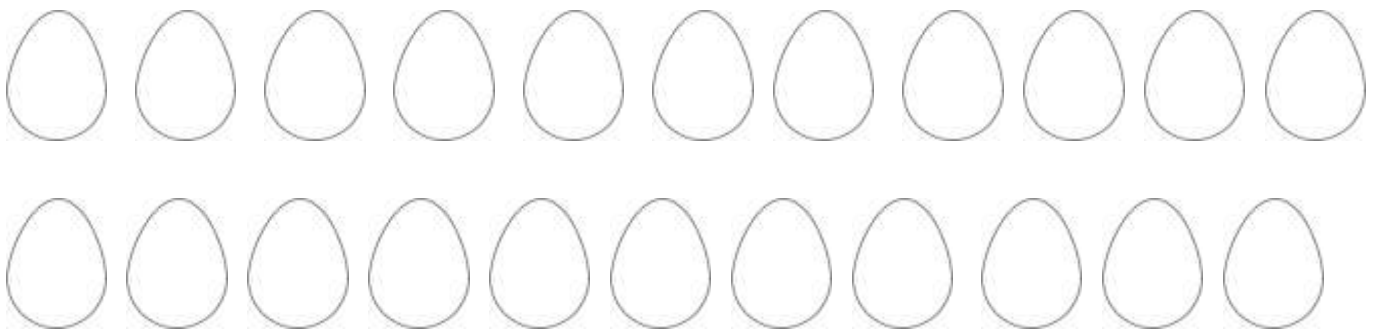
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BLESSINGS



CROSSES



Crosses can be blessings too since they keep us humble. They also teach us to be dependent on God for all things, even the little things. This is the relationship our Father wants us to have with Him --- to be like little children waiting at His knee.