

We celebrate what we value in life.

Here's what we celebrate today:

- God has never <u>loved</u> you more than He does <u>today</u>.
- God's love is greater than your <u>past</u>.
- God has the power to transform your life.
- God can change our <u>outlook</u> on life.

You might need a new perspective if:

- You struggle to find <u>meaning</u> in life. 10 ... I came to give life—life in all its fullness. John 10:10 (NCV)
- You have an absence of joy.
- Your outlook is cynical.
- Today is just another <u>Sunday</u>.

Our perspective gets tainted by:

- Our exposure to <u>hurts</u>.
- Our experience with <u>failures</u>.
- Our expectations about the <u>future</u>.

1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

- 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
- $3\;$ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!" Luke 24:1-6 (NLT)

Our focus for a changed perspective:

 Jesus on the <u>cross</u> demonstrates that you are <u>loved</u>.
 8 "God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us." Romans 5:8 (NLT)

The empty Tomb proves that God is <u>greater</u> than what you're <u>going through</u>.

11 It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! Romans 8:11 (MSG)

The resurrection demonstrates that we can have new life.

4 We were buried with Him (Jesus) through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 (NIV)

He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. 2 Corinthians 5:15 (MSG)

How do we experience this resurrection life?

Trade <u>religion</u> for <u>relationship</u>.

25 "You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. John 11:25 (MSG)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups: These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- $\ensuremath{\bullet}$ What would you say is the most beautiful day of your life? Explain why.
- People celebrate many things on Easter, some Biblical and some not. What do you celebrate on Easter? How does that impact your personal life?
- Do you believe you have a good perspective on life? Why?
- Other than what is listed, What are some signs that you might need a new perspective on life?
- How does Jesus' resurrection change our perspective on life?
- In your own words, how does Jesus dying on the cross demonstrate to you are loved?
- How does the empty tomb prove that God is greater that what we're going through?
- $\ensuremath{\bullet}$ How does the resurrection demonstrate that we can have new life?

 Connection Group Leaders: Remind your group of the following announcements:

 Rummage Sale: April 22nd
 Newbie Lunch: April 30th