

HUB NOTES

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EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9, 2023**

**COME AND SEE
THE RISEN LORD!**



1) Brainstorm as a HUB all the ways that Jesus could prove to us today He arose from the dead.

- Jesus could physically appear to us right now in a way that we could verify through our five senses.
- Jesus could allow us to time travel in such a way where we could experience the resurrected Christ firsthand (for example, the ghost of Christmas past taking Ebenezer into the past).
- Jesus could use someone in our life as a conduit to speak to us directly, maybe in a way that is miraculous and clearly from the resurrected Christ.
- What other ways?

Why does Jesus normally reveal Himself through the historical eyewitnesses of the Gospels and disciples and not these other ways?

Read John 1:1, 14, 2:19, 6:40, 11:25, 16:22, 20:1-31.

2) How would you connect the passages in John 1:1, 14, 2:19, 6:40, 11:25, 16:22 with the resurrection account in John 20:1-31?

In his Gospel, John is focused on Jesus' incarnation (John highlights at every turn on how God took on human flesh). Why is this especially important as we come to the resurrection of Jesus in John 20?

- John the incarnation theologian wanted every one of his readers to know that Jesus had a body & this very body rose from the grave, that we have a resurrected Living God in human form that was victorious over sin & death.
- John wants to tell the story of the God-man we call Jesus and His resurrection being the lynch pin of this universe & the thesis statement of a new story He is writing about you.

3) We are told stories all day, every day about the nature of reality in our lives (how the world works, how we are to function in this world, etc.). The vast majority of these stories we are told do not have any spiritual reality and truth in them; they are not founded on the resurrection of Jesus and certainly not our future resurrection as God's sons and daughters.

What happens to us when we are bombarded by stories about our circumstances and successes and failures in this world that neglect the spiritual realities described in Scripture?

4) Read over each of the physical realities and challenges that we may face today and discuss the spiritual realities and foundations that may be neglected:

a) Our taxes are due this week and life during this season becomes about numbers, income, expenses, assets, refunds and extensions. The story that this week may be telling us is that we don't make enough money, we won't have enough to retire on, our kids will not be taken care of when we die (in a way we would want), etc. The numbers and "bottom lines" paint a dim picture of our financial future.

What's the spiritual reality that we might be missing?

b) For many of you, your world is a world of blood tests, doctors appointments, MRIs and X-rays. Everything about your story right now is held in the balance until you see the doctor and he or she proclaims you are getting better or you are getting worse and so let us try this medication and this treatment. When you live in this reality, all you think about is whether you will ever feel good again or will ever be able to do what you used to do.

What's another reality that requires spiritual discernment?

c) You are divorced and you see the kids every other weekend, or you have never found the love of your life or the one you thought was the one never became the one. Your kids aren't interested in having relationship with you anymore, or those friends you thought you would grow old with you have left with hurt feelings and lots of misunderstanding.

What else might God be doing in the midst of this struggle, both now and in the future?

5) Why is the resurrection of Jesus necessary for God to tell a new story in our lives?

Breakthrough Prayers 2023

- Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us to serve those in need.
- Father, allow us to provide Bibles, beds and bikes to those taking the gospel to the Nyamwezi in 2023. (Use us to build a Christ-centered reproducing church among an unreached people – the Nyamwezi – by 2030.)
- Father, please launch 100 discipleship groups among us this year.
- Father, help us to walk worthy of our calling, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1, 3).