



#### **Notices:**

Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

**Parenting Evening //** On the evening of April 19th we're looking forward to an evening workshop with Shine Youth looking at how we can support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our kids and youth! More details and sign up [bvc.so/parentingevening](https://bvc.so/parentingevening)

**Leadership Lab //** Are you exploring a call to leadership, or would you like to start developing your leadership skills? Leadership Lab is a free, open to all, online course starting 17th April. Find out more: [bvc.so/leadershiplab](https://bvc.so/leadershiplab)

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## **Easter Sunday - Death to Life**

**Date:** Sunday 9th April 2023

**Speakers:** Andrew McNeil, Phil Grasham

**Key Verses:** Matthew 27 & 28

### **Talk Summary:**

The resurrection of Jesus is the central event of the Christian faith. It's the foundation of a faith and a worldview that provides perspective to all of life.

We tend to live in the realm of likes on social media platforms. This isn't a like / dislike conversation, it's a true or false conversation.

The evidence for the resurrection groups under a few headings.

- 1) Absence from the tomb.
- 2) His presence with the disciples
- 3) Transformation in his disciples
- 4) Transformation is still happening today

Faith in Jesus is the proper response to the evidence, not “blind trust” in the absence of evidence. Even James, Jesus' half brother only became a disciple after the resurrection.

So what's the impact for us because of the resurrection? Death to life. That's not just about what Jesus did, it's about what Jesus does. Death to life. We can come alive to God. A new life is made possible because of faith in Jesus. It's what Jesus called abundant life - life in all its fullness. What are some of the qualities of this new life?

**Life with freedom.** Pope Benedict said “Jesus' victory over death transforms our lives; it frees them from fear, gives them firm hope, and infuses them with something that provides existence with full meaning: the love of God.” Fear of death is the fear beneath all others fears because it's about the ultimate loss – the ultimate thing we cannot control. Death is the very thing Jesus defeated. So Jesus can deliver us from this fear and any fear. We've seen Jesus do that for so many people. Whatever you fear, whatever you face, Jesus in you can overcome it.

**Life with power.** The minute you decide to receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord, the power of God comes into your life. It's the power of the resurrection—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.” That power is at work in us. “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to you...by this same Spirit living within you”. Romans 8:11

**Life with hope.** God destroys despair and brings hope alive in his friends and followers. “The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it.” NT Wright. God starts this work of new creation in us as we choose to trust Jesus. It's a spiritual new creation first. We become friends of God - adopted into his family. This new creation work will be completed when Jesus returns. He'll return to set the wrong things right, he'll fix our broken world and our broken lives.

**Life with purpose.** We live life with purpose. God's given us gifts, talents and tasks for us to complete in our lifetime. We get to engage in a life of worship to God and service of others that's infused with purpose and value.

**Life with Friendship.** That main impact of the resurrection is that everything that's ever blocked us from friendship with God has been dealt with by Jesus.

The Bible records in 1 Timothy, chapter 2: "There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity - the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone."

Death to life. Jesus defeated death so we could come alive to God. That is what the Cross is all about. Our old history ends with the Cross. Our new history begins with the Resurrection.

Easter gives your life and my life the opportunity to start over no matter what our background, circumstances or mistakes. Easter is summed up in this one Bible verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John: 3:16).

## Resources

- [Bethinking](#) website
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtTnSMNtE44> - Alpha course clip , play video from 19:58 - 22:30
- Be Thinking Website - Like doing your own thinking and reading? This website is full of helpful articles - <https://www.bethinking.org/resurrection>
- Alpha – Talk things over with friends and enjoy good food then Alpha is great for you. It's an engaging video based course with group discussion.
- Film - The case for Christ - True story about a NY times journalist and Lawyer who examined the evidence for himself.
- The Chosen – Jesus and his teaching. <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>

## **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)**

- What has been the most significant aspect of the easter story for you?
- Are there other bits of evidence that have helped you in your own faith?
- How would you explain Good Friday to a friend? Why is it good?

## **Worship**

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship)