Study for EASTER SUNDAY

**\*“Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved*, namely John*, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”** *(John 20:1-2).*

**\*Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there**; **but she did not know that it was Jesus. “Woman, why are you crying?”, Jesus asked her. “Who is it that you are looking for?” She thought that it was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him and I will go and get him”.**

**Jesus said to her, “Mary!”. She turned towards him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!”**  ***(This means ‘Teacher’).* “Do not hold on to me”, Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him is my Father and their Father, my God and their God”** *(John 20:14-17).*

**\*If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. It would also means that the believers in Christ who have died are lost. If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity that anyone else in all the world. But** **the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised**... *(1 Corinthians 15:17-20).*

DVD Spot: **John DVD on chapter 20**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAAZ6HPXdMU>

Discussion Questions

1) Why is Easter special to you? Is your life different because God raised Jesus from the dead on the first Easter Sunday? How?

2) On Easter Sunday, what made the disciples believe that Jesus was alive and no longer dead? Share with one another the experiences of Mary, Peter and John, the disciples, Thomas, etc.

What makes you believe that Jesus is alive and not dead in a grave somewhere?

3) Why do you believe that Jesus is who he said he was, namely God’s promised King, *the Messiah;* God’s Son; and our Saviour?

4) Do you think that there is life after death? Why?

How does God’s raising of Jesus from the dead influence what you believe? *Read 1 Cor. 15:12-20; 42-44; 51-57*

5) Do you agree that the events of Easter have utterly changed your life? How would your life be, *without the death and resurrection of Jesus?* Give each person an opportunity to share about this ☺

 Quotes:

The following is are quotes from Easter Sunday’s message on the theme: “Easter and the Eastered *ones”:*

\***The Eastered ones are those who live their life in the light of Easter. That’s the first followers of Jesus, who personally experienced the resurrection of Jesus.... And that’s us, too. We, also, live our life in the light of the resurrection of Jesus.**

**\*Imagine, the joy of all the followers of Jesus then. Jesus, their friend and companion and leader was alive. They had Jesus with them once again. And even after he had ascended to heaven, they knew that Jesus was alive and “with” them, for hadn’t he promised them:**

**“I will be with you always, to the end of the age”** *(Matt. 28:20).*

**\*And it’s the same with us! We, too, know that Jesus isn’t dead, but alive! Sure, we haven’t personally seen him alive again after his death on the cross.... But we have the testimony of those who saw Jesus alive again*.* And this is a testimony that we can believe and trust with every fibre of our being.**

For these were trustworthy people, and furthermore they were people who were willing to suffer and die for what they preached, and what they knew to be the truth. *And as I’ve pointed out before, a person may be willing to go through a few hardships for a lie, but he or she won’t suffer and die for what they know to be a lie....*

**And not only do we have the testimony of those who saw Jesus alive again after he died on the cross*,* but we also have experienced the presence and the power of the risen Lord Jesus in our lives,** *as we’ve cried out to him, “Lord Jesus, help me!”, and we’ve been helped in all sorts of ways.*

**\*So for us “Eastered ones”, us who live in the light of the resurrection of Jesus, life is different because we know that we can trust to be true everything that Jesus says about himself, God’s raising of Jesus from the dead is God’s stamp of approval on Jesus, and all that Jesus said about himself. It was for the first disciples of Jesus, and it is for us, too, today.**

**\*And for us “Eastered ones”, us who live in the light of the resurrection of Jesus, life is different, thirdly, in that we know that death isn’t the end. Just as God raised Jesus, His Son, from the dead, won’t He surely also raise us from the dead, us who are His sons and His daughters through our faith in Jesus as our Saviour!**

\*We are the “Eastered *ones”.* We, like the first followers of Jesus, live our life in the light of Easter. And the Easter event, *the resurrection of Jesus from the dead,* totally and completely changes our life. **God’s raising of Jesus from the dead means that we have a Friend and Companion and Lord who isn’t dead but alive; that we can trust with every fibre of our being what Jesus said about himself, *that he is God’s Son, and our Saviour;* and that we can know for certain that death isn’t the end, but simply the start of a new life....**