

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

Welcome: *Icebreaker – How were you able to celebrate Easter this year?*

Study Context: **Happy Easter!!!** Enjoy these Couple of Videos from the Bible Project that talk more about the resurrection of Jesus and the availability of Eternal Life that we have in Him!



What's Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Danny Strange brought us into the tenth week of our series titled *A Church that Pleases God*. Pastor Danny directed our attention to *Matthew 28:1-7* so that we could pause and celebrate that when we **gather** we come to celebrate our risen savior Jesus Christ. This Easter, Pastor Danny shared with those looking for Jesus that he is alive, he is near, and he can be found primarily through his word and in the midst of his people. As you engage with this study guide, recognize that if you are searching desperately for Jesus and having a hard time, understand that the unstoppable, living, and eternal God is planning to find you!

“It’s no coincidence that Easter is in spring. We are reminded that life can return even to what seems dead around us. God is alive and wants to breathe life into the aspects of our existence ruled by death.” – Pastor Danny Strange



GROUP MEETING (60 – 90 minutes)

Worship (10 – 15 minutes)

Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter into the presence of God for this meeting.

Option 1: Worship Music Have someone share their favorite song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them!	Option 2: God Sightings It can be difficult to praise God, especially if you are blind to His presence. Go around and praise the Lord for all of the ways you have seen God near to you this past week!	Option 3: Creative Meditation Luke 24:5 / Acts 17:27 / Jeremiah 29:10-14 This Easter, we celebrate that Jesus is alive and is near to us! Meditate on what it mean to be near to Jesus and share with your group!
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Word #1: Celebrate Easter by Sharing your Salvation Story (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Matthew 28:1-7 – Our main passage remind us that the events of Easter started with two women who were looking for Jesus in his tomb but could not find him. The angel's message to the women – that he is not here at the tomb, he has risen, just as he said – suggests that Jesus is (1) the unstoppable, life-giving, eternally alive God, and (2) that Jesus is engaged in his plan to gather and find those who are looking for him. **This Easter, share us your personal story around the idea of you *trying* to find God, but then Jesus finding you! Which truth mentioned about the passage in Matthew stands out to you the most in your season of life?**

Host Tip: Sometimes, we get to know a lot about people without ever really hearing their story of salvation. In this question, spend some time diving deeper into the stories of salvation in your group!

Word #2: Commit to Deeper Engagement with the Lord (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Acts 2:14-41 – This Easter weekend, we were reminded of the resurrected Jesus who was raised to life and desires to be found. Yet we often have a difficult time finding him especially when things become difficult. This first presentation of the gospel message in Acts suggest that people DID find Jesus through (1) His Word [2 Timothy 3:16-17] and (2) amongst his people [Ephesians 2:19-21]. **As you examine your own faith journey, in what ways do you need to continue to lean into the word or engage in the church community? How might your group commit to building each other up in terms of engaging in the Bible and investing in your closest relationships?...your small group?...your home church?...the church around the globe?**

Host Tip: Each person has their unique approach in how they engage in the word of God and the church of Jesus Christ. Spend some time reviewing the ways people meet with the Lord and see if there are any connections that can be made to do it together amidst the group!



Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

- Pray for the Unfolding Events in the [Russia – Ukrainian crisis](#).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to reveal to illuminate the life that we have in the resurrection!
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir us to engage with God's word and God's people!
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!
- Pray for God's hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at 3Crosses.org/pray!

Throughout the Week

- **Prepare for Next Week:** *Spiritual Disciplines - Primary Texts: Ephesians 4:17-32* — As we transition into the **grow** portion of our series, we will unpack what it means to engage in the spiritual disciplines! This week, prepare by brainstorming any spiritual disciplines you engage in and be prepared to share scriptures that align with your practice.
- **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the group pick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with wherever the Holy Spirit is leading them.
- **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our [neighborhood resource center](#) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](#)!
- **Life Groups 2022:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org or Carmela at carmela@3crosses.org