

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 20th April 2014

**THEME: RESURRECTION**

**As we Gather**

**Christ is risen** – Hallelujah! **Resurrection** distinguishes Christianity from all other religions.

**Reading Scripture**      **JOHN 20 : 1 - 18**

**Thinking together**

Jesus fulfils the meaning of the Old Testament prophecies and feasts, and in His triumph over death leave His followers to carry forward the unique mission of mercy.

**Why is Jesus' resurrection the key to the Christian faith? Discuss**  
**(see also 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 1:4)**

The empty cross and the empty tomb are God's proof that our debt has been paid. When fully realised, the truth of the resurrection brings us love, hope and faith.

Like Mary and the disciples, we too pass through various stages of belief concerning the resurrection

- It is a story impossible to believe (John 20:2). A tomb guarded and sealed by a heavy stone now lies open and empty. Could this have been due to the body being taken by the authorities or by grave robbers?
- A need to check out the facts (John 20:6-7). The grave clothes were undisturbed. Grave robbers would not have left them lying in this way and the authorities would have taken them with the body.
- Only after a personal encounter with Jesus are we able to accept the fact of resurrection (John 20:16 and John 20:8-9). Distress / grief blinds us / has a deadening effect on us, but love opens us to the truth / understanding

**Are you filled with joy at the news of the empty tomb? Discuss**  
**(see also John 10:3)**

**Do you share this good news with others? How? Discuss**

The evidence we discover leads us to the Word, our Saviour; and in turn to a personal relationship with our Lord.

Historical faith says "Christ lives". Saving faith says "Christ lives in me".

**Do you have saving faith? Discuss**

## **In Closing**

The essence of Christianity lies in the words 'I have seen Christ the Lord' (John 20:18).

Knowing about Jesus is one thing, but knowing Jesus – meeting Him and experiencing His presence / glory, is LIFE.

### A Prayer you might like to read

Lord of all life and power,  
through the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame  
the old order of sin and death and made all things new in Him.  
Grant that, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
we may reign with Him in glory.            Amen