



## Discussion Guide

Date: 4/5/2026

Sermon Title: What is the Truth?

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

### OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, as Easter people, we gather as those who seek truth not just ideas, but the truth that transforms lives. Open our hearts and minds as we reflect on your resurrection. Help us to hear the good news again with fresh hope, just as the women at the tomb did. Reveal to us again that your resurrection is not just something that happened long ago, but a living truth that changes us today. We pray this in the name of the risen Christ, Amen.

### OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. Share a time when something you thought was "the end" turned out to be a new beginning. (Examples: job loss leading to a better opportunity, a relationship ending that led to personal growth, etc.)?

### OPENING CONTEXT:

Easter raises the ultimate question: What is truth? Is the resurrection simply a story? A symbol? Or is it the foundational truth of our faith? The resurrection of Jesus is the center of Christian hope. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:14 "And if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain." For Christians, truth is not merely information, but truth is a person. Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Easter reveals that truth is alive.

### DIGGING INTO THE SCRIPTURE:

Read Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSV). Using additional translations may be helpful for you in wrestling with the text.

*Observing the Text:*

1. What stands out to you most in this resurrection story?
2. Why do you think the women went to the tomb early that morning?
3. What emotions do you see in the women throughout the passage? (Fear, grief, joy, confusion, hope)
4. What is the first message the angel gives them? Why is that significant?

Matthew 28:5–6 (NRSV) "Do not be afraid... He is not here; for he has been raised..."

5. Why do you think "Do not be afraid" is one of the first resurrection messages?
6. Where do you see fear being transformed into hope in this story?

*Encountering Truth:*

7. What does it mean that the women meet Jesus on the way? (Matthew 28:9)
8. Have you ever experienced Christ in an unexpected moment?
9. What does it mean that they took hold of his feet and worshiped him?
10. How does this physical encounter reinforce the truth of the resurrection?

*Moving From Fear to Joy:*

Matthew 28:8 (NRSV) "So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy..."

11. How can fear and joy exist together?
12. Where have you experienced both fear and joy in your faith journey?
13. What does this tell us about the reality of resurrection faith?

*Going Deeper:*

14. Why do you think women were the first witnesses of the resurrection?
15. What does this say about God's surprising ways?
16. What truth about God do you see revealed in this story?
17. How does the resurrection change how we understand suffering and death?

*Further Scripture:*

Colossians 3:1 (NRSV) "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..."

18. What does it mean to live as someone raised with Christ?
19. Where is God inviting you to live into resurrection hope right now?

**SERMON QUESTIONS:**

1. Pastor Clayton opens the sermon with how punctuation matters and says, "don't put a period where God put a comma". How does viewing Easter as God's comma rather than a period change the way you interpret difficult seasons in your own life?
2. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb expecting finality and grief. When have you encountered God's unexpected hope in a situation where you expected only loss?
3. Pastor Clayton emphasizes that Easter does not erase the reality of Good Friday but destroys its force. How do you reconcile holding both the pain of suffering and the hope of resurrection simultaneously?
4. Pastor Clayton reflects on 2 Cor 4:8-11 where Paul writes that we are afflicted but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair. Which of these contrasts resonates most with your current life circumstances, and why?
5. What Good Friday experiences in your life have you mistakenly marked with a period that God intended as a comma?
6. How does resurrection faith change the way we walk alongside others who are experiencing their own Good Fridays?

**REFLECTION:**

1. If someone asked you today, "What is truth?", how would you answer considering Easter?
2. Young people sometimes experience challenges that feel final. How can the church better communicate the comma of hope to those facing what feels like a period of despair?



3. If Easter teaches us to see with resurrection eyes, what practical difference should this make in how we face tomorrow's challenges and uncertainties?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Risen Christ, we thank you for the truth of Easter. The truth that death does not win, fear does not win, and despair does not win. You are alive, and because you live, we live also. Help us to leave this time like the women at the tomb with fear transformed into courage, and doubt transformed into hope. Send us into the world to share the truth of your resurrection through our words, our compassion, and our love. Make us resurrection people; people of hope, grace, and new life. We go now trusting in the risen Christ who meets us along the way. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.*

**WAYS TO RESPOND:**

Choose ONE of the following practices to focus on this week:

1. Each day this week, write down one situation that feels like a "period" in your life. Pray specifically asking God to show you the comma. Journal any insights, shifts in perspective, or small signs of hope
2. Identify someone you know who is experiencing a "Good Friday" moment. Reach out to them this week with a message of hope. Share how God has put commas in your own story (without minimizing their pain)
3. Memorize 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. When you face challenges this week, pause and recite these verses. Replace the period in your thinking with Paul's "but not..." Comma.