

## Getting Easter Right

### How the first Easter upset the kingdom:

Acts 5:12-33

### Getting Easter right:

Acts 5:12-33

It's not about what they **DID**, but who they **WERE WITH**.

This is a great example of how God works for His **PURPOSE** and **GLORY**, not **OURS**.

The purpose of Easter is to get a **NEW LIFE**, not a new:

**RELIGION**

**IDEOLOGY**

**MORALITY**

Christ exchanged His **LIFE** for **OURS**, so we could exchange our **LIFE** for **HIS**.

### Good news, there are only two ways to get Easter wrong:

1. To forget that we are **SAVED** to **SAVE OTHERS**.
2. To forget that we need a **SAVIOR**.



## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 12, 2020

**HOW TO GET ONLINE WITH YOUR GROUP:** *In case you missed the first week of Life Group, your leader or host will be emailing you information regarding the platform being used by your group to get online. Go to this link for more details <https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/>*

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. This past weekend we experienced one of the most memorable Easters any of us will ever remember. What was Easter like in your household growing up? Has it changed over the years?

2. Extending comfort and empathy to people is greatly needed right now. Some people are more naturally empathetic than others. Where would you put yourself on a scale of 1-10 (10 being high) when it comes to empathy?

Has there been anything in your life that has helped you grow in the ability to extend comfort and empathy to others?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Easter is a time when we're reminded of how Jesus' death on the cross provided forgiveness of our sins. Remembering our need for forgiveness and God's incredible provision of it will help us become generous in our forgiveness of others. Right now, many of us are spending a lot of time around a small group of people which means there is ample opportunity for increased relational friction, so forgiveness is needed now more than ever. The story of Joseph in the Old Testament is a great example of what forgiveness looks like. He was nearly killed by his own brothers and then sold into slavery by them. He later rose to a position of great leadership and power in a foreign country. When he was finally reunited with his brothers, he had every right to seek revenge, but instead he showed them grace and mercy. Read Genesis 45:1-15 and answer the following questions.

**Genesis 45:1-15** – *New International Version (NIV)* – Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.<sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!<sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.<sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping.<sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.<sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.<sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.<sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have.<sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'<sup>12</sup> "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you.<sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."<sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.<sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Why do you think Joseph was able to show his brothers this kind of grace and forgiveness?

What do you think “forgive as the Lord has forgiven you” looks like in real life?

Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than an event, and sometimes we don’t want to be on that journey. What are some of the reasons we have for holding on to a grudge or not forgiving?

Often we think of forgiveness in the context of some big wrongs, like what happened with Joseph and his brothers. But we also face issues of forgiveness in our daily life. What are some of the small things that happen to us where we also need to ask for or offer forgiveness?

2. We heard this weekend that we’re “saved to save others.” Being involved in “saving others” often means ministering to them by extending comfort and empathy, which are two big needs in our world today as many people are struggling financially, physically and emotionally. One of the best ways God teaches us to comfort others is through the trials and difficult seasons in our own lives. What stands out to you about how God wants to teach us to comfort others from 2 Corinthians 1:3-7?

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** — *New International Version (NIV)* — Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup>For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

How is Paul’s perspective in this passage contrary to how people normally think when facing physical or emotional challenges?

Can you think of a time in your life when you’ve experienced the comfort of God?

Is there a person in your life who has been an example of consistently showing comfort and empathy to others?

Can you think of any positive or negative examples in your life when someone has attempted to show you compassion or empathy? Is there anything you can learn from what they did or did not do?

## TAKING IT HOME

1. In light of the struggles so many people are having right now, take a moment to pray and ask God to show you how He can use your trials, sufferings or difficulties to minister to others.

2. Can you think of any ways you can be comforting to those inside or outside of your home despite the limitations of social distancing right now?

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## TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

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**RESOURCES DURING QUARANTINE:** Check out these links, also available on our homepage: [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com).

- Need some extra help or are you looking to serve in the midst of this crisis? Visit the [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for a variety of options.
  - Also, check out our [Daily Doses](#) to help encourage you while dealing with the potential challenges COVID-19 may cause.
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