

# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## The Third Day // Life Group Study

Jesus spent his ministry teaching people what love looked like, urging people to turn from their old ways of doing things and embrace his way of doing things. In NT Wrights words, Jesus showed people that ‘there is a completely different way to live, a way of love, and reconciliation and healing and hope.’ This is what the cross made way for, the resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord of all. Death has been defeated. The kingdom of God is well and truly here.

At every turn Jesus demonstrated the kingdom. Every interaction, every parable, every sermon, every meal was an opportunity to show his disciples what the kingdom of God looked like. His death and resurrection were, of course, his greatest demonstration.

### The Women and the Empty Tomb

*Read Luke 24:1-12*

In our day and age we don’t take to much notice of the fact that it was the women who first found the tomb empty and spread the word to the other disciples - who didn’t believe *‘the women, because their words seemed like nonsense.’* Their response to the women is somewhat dismissive, due in part to the fact that a women’s witness or testimony wasn’t considered reliable, simply because they were women.

*“In making women the first witnesses of the resurrection, a factual matter, he does something extraordinary. What is more Jesus sends the women to inform the frightened and dispirited male apostles that he has risen. In commissioning the women “to go” and tell the male apostles that he has risen Jesus makes the women “apostles to the apostles”. If God could choose women for this lofty ministry, we tread on dangerous ground if we limit their ministry to certain spheres men devise.”*

Theologian and retired Anglican minister Kevin Giles

What does the gospel say to us? Jesus came to restore creation to it’s pre-fallen state. Where man and woman tended to the garden together in perfect harmony with each other and with their creator.

- How did Jesus restore dignity and worth to women? And other marginalised and oppressed groups?
- What simple things can we do to continue Jesus’ legacy and be restorers of shalom?

*Read Matthew 13:31-33*

- What does Jesus mean when he says that the kingdom of God is like yeast or a mustard seed?

# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:12*

We know that, like the disciples, we also 'see through a glass darkly'. This is due to our current condition of living within the tension of the two ages – the current evil age and the new age ushered in by Christ by the power of the Spirit.

Having dismissed the women's words as nonsensical, Peter ran back to the tomb to try and make sense of things himself. Still reeling from the horror of Friday and the haunting emptiness of Saturday, it's not surprisingly Peter was having trouble putting the pieces of the puzzle together. It was as though he had forgotten all that Jesus had prophesied, his disbelief clouded his memory like amnesia. Hearing but not hearing, seeing but not seeing.

Jesus pursues us relentlessly. We are all impacted by living in the 'current evil age' and we all have testimonies of suffering and loss. Therefore, it is imperative we take time to thoughtfully reflect on our lives to see Jesus in the midst of our circumstances. Thoughtful reflection anchors us and reminds us that God is present, and his overarching plan is in motion. It reconnects us to the bigger picture and engages our faith. Thoughtful reflection invites the Holy Spirit to give us insight and revelation, and although we still see things imperfectly because we live within the tension, his illumination bathes us in light and reveals the path to follow. We find peace in the shadows when we seek Jesus.

- How do you make room for thoughtful reflection?

*Read Luke 24:13-35 & Revelation 3:20*

Jesus words in Revelation illustrate how he pursues us. He is constantly vying for our attention, giving us opportunity after opportunity to commune with him.

- Why didn't the disciples recognize Jesus on the road to Emmaus?
- What was the significance of Jesus breaking bread with the disciples? And why do you think that they finally 'remembered' Jesus at the table?
- How do you feel knowing that Jesus pursues you like this (Rev 3:20)?

The third day marked the beginning of the kingdom of God, the unleashing of the fullness of God's abundant, powerful, redemptive, restorative, healing, magnificent love.

*John 3:16-17*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*