



# GRAVES INTO GARDENS

## Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Easter

Happy Easter! For many though, especially this past year, happy is far from what we may be experiencing. A recent study found that in June 2020, 11% of people had anxiety and depression; in January 2021, 41% had anxiety and depression. If we're honest, each of us has experienced something that is either dead or dying. This could be an emotional loss, a relational loss, or a spiritual loss. We may have lost a loved one, lost a job, felt lonely and isolated, insecure, fearful, betrayed, maybe even feel separated from God.

When Jesus went to the cross and grave it wasn't just for a holiday once a year, He was on a mission to conquer death and hell for us! Jesus has the keys to unlock everything that you would say, "This is hell". anything that you think is either dead or dying or stands in the way of living the life you hoped for. The best way to celebrate Easter 2021 is to be free from every prison and to experience a resurrection in every area of your life! Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection. Let Easter be a celebration of your resurrection.

Jesus' resurrection can affect you in four ways: God loves you and is searching for you, God wants to rescue you because you are very valuable to Him, God wants to restore you from your emotional, relational, or spiritual loss, and God wants to redeem your life to experience the life that He has planned for you, a life that has purpose and hope. Ephesians 1:19-20 – "I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him ... the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." (LB)

## Discussion Questions

- God never wastes a storm in your life. You are more important to God than changing the situation. What has God been exposing in your life through this past year this is either dead or dying?
- What type of person will you be when you get to the end of our current crisis? Will you be the same as you were before? Will you be transformed with a stronger faith?
- Which of these four ways is Jesus' resurrection affecting you today? God is searching for me, God is rescuing me, God is restoring me, or God is redeeming me? Which of these would you like to be real in your life?

## Prayer Focus

Thank God that His love for you surpasses anything you can imagine, even though He knows every intimate detail of your life – both the good and the bad. Pray that your understanding of Him will grow so that you can live out the life He designed for you – a life full of resurrection power!

## Next Steps

If you were to move out of your neighborhood, would your neighbors notice? If you were to leave your job, would your co-workers notice? Think about the struggles you have on the job, at home, with THAT group of friends, and in your community. Make a list of some practical things you could do with God's help to show His love and "turn graves into gardens" in one of these areas.

## Leader Tip

If you have not done so yet, it's time to think about anyone in your group who might be a potential leader. Take time to have a conversation with them about taking on a larger leadership role. Pray with them about the possibility of launching a new group next semester.