



# EASTER *at* VICTORY

## Leader Conversation Guide – Easter at Victory

### Main Idea

This week we celebrate the risen Savior! Pastor Curt opened with a powerful question, 'Where does my hope come from?'. When we're kids, we hope for toys. When we get older, we hope to graduate from college with as little debt as possible. Then we hope to be married. Then we hope to have kids. Then we hope our kids will grow up to be successful. Then we hope for grandkids. The cycle goes on and on. We never outgrow hope. But sometimes, we lose hope. In the passage Luke 24:13-34, the two individuals walking, were walking away from Jerusalem into hopelessness. In verse 15, Jesus walked alongside them, and they were kept from recognizing Him. Hope was right next to them living and breathing, and they couldn't see it. Jesus didn't want to make a big spectacle for them to believe. He wanted to give them hope, more than what they could just see. He kept Himself hidden because He wanted them to believe for themselves on the inside before they saw with their own eyes. The way He always offers hope, it starts on the inside.

**"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."**

1 Peter 1:3 NIV

### Make it Practical

- **The enemy opens our eyes to our shame.** The enemy likes to point out to what is seen. He brings up things of the past, trying to keep us stuck and in a cycle. Ephesians 6 tells us "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." The enemy will do everything to distract us in our present, to destroy our hopes in the future.
- **Jesus opens our eyes to our hope.** This happens internally before we ever see it with our eyes. Jesus shows us what is unseen. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." He has already won the victory over death, and is victorious for all eternity! Because of His victory, we can walk in Hope and live in Freedom from shame and fear!

## Talk About It

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Have you ever experienced a "blinding moment of clarity?" ("Their eyes were opened." Luke 24:31) Where something all of a sudden became so clear, and your eyes were opened?
- What is something you may have once had hope in, that you need to place into the hands of Jesus?

**Hope isn't found in a place,  
it's found in a Person.**

## Prayer

Father, thank You for the hope You have brought to us through Christ's resurrection. Thank You for Your sacrifice and for claiming victory over shame and death, so that we could walk in Freedom. Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the hope You have for our lives. We know that Your plans for us are far beyond our comprehension. You have called us as Your own, and we declare Your victory over any shame or fear In our lives! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Leader Tip

Invite Group Members to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. Sometimes a large space can be intimidating. Take time to be personal in a call to salvation for those who may have never actually prayed a prayer of salvation and repentance.

Pray for freedom from shame, and for the hope of Christ to be restored in the hearts of Group Members. Invite Group Members to join us in Freedom Groups in the Fall Semester.