

Easter at victory

Leader Conversation Guide – Four Crowds at Easter

Main Idea

Easter reminds us that the story of Jesus isn't just something to observe—it's something that invites a response. Throughout the events leading up to the resurrection, we see different crowds forming around Jesus, each with their own perspective, expectations, and motivations. Some were looking for what they could get, others believed they knew better, and some simply treated it as a moment to celebrate without allowing it to truly change them. The message challenges us to recognize that it's possible to be close to the story of Jesus, yet still miss the significance of who He really is.

But there is another response—one that moves beyond curiosity, convenience, or tradition. It's the response of surrender, where we don't just know about Jesus, but choose to follow Him with our whole lives. This week's message invites each of us to honestly ask, "Where do I fit in the crowd?" As we begin our discussion, let's open our hearts to what God may be revealing, and consider what it looks like to move toward a deeper, more committed relationship with Him.

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

MARK 16:15

Make it Practical:

Self-Focused Faith Falls Short (Mark 11:7–10; Mark 15:6–15)

- Some in the crowd followed Jesus based on what they could gain ("What's in it for me?")
- When expectations weren't met, their praise quickly turned to rejection
- A self-centered approach to Jesus leads to disappointment and confusion

Misguided Belief Leads to a False Faith (Mark 14:1–2; Mark 14:61–65)

- Others believed they knew better than God and reshaped truth to fit their own thinking
- It's possible to be religious or spiritual, yet still reject who Jesus truly is
- Creating a version of Jesus on our terms leads to a false sense of security

True Followers Surrender Fully to Jesus (Mark 16:6–16)

- Some treat Jesus as a moment or tradition, but remain unchanged
- The invitation of Easter is to move beyond casual belief into full surrender
- Real life, purpose, and transformation are found in giving Jesus everything

Talk About It

Which of the four crowds described in the message do you find yourself relating to most right now, and why? What do you think has shaped that perspective in your life?

Have you ever found yourself placing expectations on God or trying to understand Him on your own terms? What helped you recognize that, and how did it affect your relationship with Him?

What does it practically look like in your current season to move from simply believing in Jesus to fully surrendering and following Him? What might need to change in your life to take that step?

Do those around me know enough about Jesus to give their lives to Him?

Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us enough to meet us right where we are, no matter which “crowd” we may find ourselves in. Thank You for sending Jesus, not just to be observed, but to be followed. Help us to see You clearly and respond with open hearts, surrendering every part of our lives to You.

Give us the courage to move beyond comfort or routine and step into a deeper, more committed relationship with You. Shape our thoughts, align our desires, and lead us in Your truth. As we go from here, help us to live as true followers of Jesus, reflecting Your love in all we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Next Steps

Reflect on and receive what Jesus has done for you

- Set aside time this week to thank Jesus for His sacrifice and resurrection. Spend a few moments in Scripture and prayer, allowing His resurrection to deepen your gratitude and shape your identity.

Pray intentionally for people who need to know Jesus

- Ask God to place specific names on your heart and commit to praying for them daily. Pray for open hearts, opportunities to connect, and the courage to share your faith.

Take a step to invite and engage

- Invite someone to church, a Group, or a conversation about faith—especially during this season. Look for practical ways to participate in what God is doing, trusting that He can use your simple step of obedience.