

# **Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 1, 2018**

**“Sounds Like Nonsense to Me” Pastor Hook 8, 9:30 Pastor Temple 7, 11**

## **Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)**

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Hiding God’s Word, Psalm 119:9-16)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- What is the greatest “come-back” story you have ever witnessed or know of?

## **Review the Sermon (25 min)**

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Matthew 21:1-11. As you go through the discussion questions that follow, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:**

**<sup>7</sup> ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ”**  
**<sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.**  
**<sup>9</sup> When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.**  
**<sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- Given that the women were in fact seeking the dead among the dead, the angel asks the women a strange question, “why do you look for the living among the dead?” Does it seem strange to you for angels to be using joyful humor? Why or why not?
- In Luke’s account of the resurrection, the women are the heroes of faith and Peter seems slow to believe them about Jesus’ being risen from the dead, even though he had witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and heard Jesus predict his own death and resurrection. Do you think this is because ...
  - A- Peter was lost in his sense of guilt for denying Jesus three times after He was arrested, B- He had lost hope because Jesus was no longer physically with them, C- he was suspicious of the testimony of women because of the culture and times he live in, D- The holy spirit had not yet come and strengthened him as at Pentecost, F- he was leery of someone tricking him with “fake news” or G- another reason?
- How do you respond to Donald W. McCullough’s statement, “God does not always respect the boundaries we create and carefully protect. For we serve a wildly free God who just won’t stay put and can always knock us flat by the wonder of his grace and surprises?”
- Where does God continue to surprise you?

### **Personalize the Sermon (15 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- Would a volunteer please read out loud 1 Corinthians 15:16-19. How do verses 16-19 indicate to you that the resurrection of Christ is not an optional, but an essential Christian belief?
- Would a volunteer continue reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. How do verses 20-23 point to the reversal of the fall or the “original sin” of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?
- How do you see the resurrection of Christ linked with the possibility of your own?

### **Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)**

- How does knowing that not even death is final because of the miraculous power of God, give you hope for present life circumstances and issues you may be facing?
- How does tracking the slow progress of Peter’s faith give you hope for your own?
- This week, as those who have died to self and been raised to new life in Christian faith, how might we embrace the resurrection of Christ as a basis to have a more joyful attitude?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- Who in your social networks might, like the apostles initially, think words about the resurrection of Christ seem like “nonsense?”
- How might they come to know what you believe about the resurrection of Christ?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.