

LIFE Group Leader Handout

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

He is Risen! It's Not Over

Pastor Mike O'Connor

Scripture—all of John 20; verses 30 & 31 shown here

[30] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Main Idea—It's Not Over

In the account of the resurrection, they thought Jesus' life was over—

- The authorities thought it was over—but his gospel message is still being preached today.
- Mary Magdalene thought it was over—but Jesus appears to her in the garden.
- Peter thought it was over—but Jesus meets with him alone for restoration
- Thomas thought it was over—but sees Jesus the next week and is invited to place his hands in Jesus' wounds

The risen Christ appears to Mary, Peter and Thomas, but not all at the same time or in the same way.

Even those close to Jesus do not fully understand the prophecies he made and the Scriptures made about his resurrection.

For us today—It's not over.

- We may have had wrong expectations like Mary
- We may have blown it like Peter
- We may have stubbornly doubted like Thomas

Application—

- In what ways does the message, "It's not over" affect your current situation and your outlook on it?
- Would you be willing to share your spiritual dreams—what Jesus story are you asking God to write in your life and through your life?

These 16 commands for living in healthy, authentic community will help your small group change the world. Talk about one shining moment!

Love one another.

Be at peace with each other.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Honor one another above yourselves.

Live in harmony with one another.

Stop passing judgment on one another.

Accept one another—just as Christ accepted you.

Instruct one another.

Serve one another in love.

Carry each other's burdens.

Be kind and compassionate to one another.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Admonish one another.

Encourage one another daily.

Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so you may be healed.

Look through this list with your group. Which are slam dunks for you right now? With which ones do you need more practice?

