



***PALM
SUNDAY
EASTER***

LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE

April 2 - April 9



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LIFEGROUP **STUDY GUIDE**

by Dan Franklin

This study guide follows along with LBF Church's current Sunday message series and is intended to be a supplement in your daily passionate pursuit of Jesus.

- *Watch last Sunday's message video:*
www.lbf.church/messages

Is your group stumped? Did you come to a question that you feel needs clarification? Our church isn't too big. Contact Pastor Dan with your questions.

- *Contact Pastor Dan:*
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Palm Sunday: Missing the Point

Various Passages • pp. 4-5 • April 2

Easter Sunday: Why You Need a Resurrection

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PALM SUNDAY: MISSING THE POINT

By Jeff Taylor • April 2

MAIN POINT

Who Jesus was/is can be missed when we put what is important to us at the forefront.

INTRODUCTION

Whether because we took something too literally, emphasized the wrong point in a conversation, or simply weren't paying attention to details, we have all missed the point at some time in our life. This can be funny, embarrassing, or even destructive, but always means what should have happened, didn't.

In this lesson we will look at four (of the many) instances where people missed God because they had their focus on something else; something they believed was more important and should be prioritized, what they believed were "reasonable" actions, or their idea of appropriate appearances. So, let's allow the Holy Spirit to minister to our soul, and through His WORD to speak, convict, and encourage us so that we don't miss the point when He speaks and moves in our lives.

GETTING STARTED

1. Tell about a time you thought something was going on, and end up finding out that it was actually something totally different.

2. How do you feel when you realize you are out of the loop?

DIGGING IN

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

Read Luke 19:37-40

4. What led Jesus' disciples to break out into worship?

5. Why were the religious leaders so upset about the praise Jesus' followers were expressing?

Read Mark 11:1-10

6. According to the passage, what got the people excited to see Jesus?

7. What could cause people to shout “Hosanna” on Sunday, and “Crucify Him” on Friday?

Read Mark 14:1-9

8. Jesus said that what this woman had done would be talked about right alongside the gospel. Why does He put this emphasis on her actions?

9. Why did the witnesses have such a problem with Mary of Bethany using the perfume to anoint Jesus?

TAKING IT TO HEART

10. What are some of the threats in your life that could cause you to miss the point of the power and presence of God available to you through a relationship with Jesus?

11. In what ways do you praise Jesus, but miss the point about how God wants to move in other areas of relationship with Him?

EASTER LESSON: WHY YOU NEED A RESURRECTION

By Dan Franklin • April 9

MAIN POINT

Without the resurrection of Jesus, human beings are left without hope.

INTRODUCTION

Most everyone in American culture celebrates Easter in some way. Some celebrate it with bunnies, some with candy, and some with family gatherings. For believers in Jesus all around the world, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, many of us call Easter “Resurrection Sunday.” After remembering his sacrificial death on Good Friday, we celebrate his victorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

While there are some non-Christians who are hostile to the message of Jesus’ resurrection, many others simply seem indifferent. As opposed to diligently searching for whether or not the historical facts support the idea that Jesus was raised, they shrug their shoulders. They seem to think, “Maybe he did. Maybe he didn’t. But what does that have to do with me?”

What does it have to do with them? And what does it have to do with us? In other words, why does the resurrection of Jesus matter for us today? Couldn’t we just listen to the wise words of Jesus and follow his inspiring example of love and sacrifice? Why do we need a resurrection?

In this lesson we answer this question through exploring 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. In this passage Paul dives into the hypothetical scenario of Jesus not having been raised. He gives several implications of this scenario. And by showing implications that would be true if Jesus was not raised, he gives us powerful implications for why Jesus’ resurrection matters for us today.

GETTING STARTED

1. What words do you associate with the resurrection of Jesus?

2. Imagine that tomorrow you came across indisputable proof that Jesus had never been raised from the dead. Name some specific ways in which your life would change because of this.

DIGGING IN

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Read verses 12-13, and then read 1 Corinthians 15:20. What do these verses say about the connection between Jesus' resurrection and a future resurrection for the dead?

5. Some people say that the Christian life would be a good life, even if it turned out that it wasn't based on the truth. How would you respond to this idea in light of what Paul writes in verses 14-15?

6. In verses 17-19, what does Paul say about what would be different if Jesus had not been raised from the dead?

7. In light of what Paul says in verse 19, why should Christians be pitied if Jesus was not raised from the dead?

WRESTLING WITH ISSUES

8. Likely, many Christians today would not receive a great deal of pity if it was suddenly proved that Jesus never was raised from the dead. Why do you think this is the case?

CONNECTING TO THE GOSPEL

9. In verse 17 Paul says that, without Jesus' resurrection, "you are still in your sins." How does your faith in Jesus' resurrection give you specific hope about your sins being forgiven?

TAKING IT TO HEART

10. This lesson was all about the implications of Jesus' resurrection for our own lives. What implication most stands out to you personally, and why?

11. As believers in Jesus, we want to live in a way that we truly would be pitied if it was suddenly proven that Jesus was never raised from the dead. In what way do you feel convicted by the Holy Spirit to lean into greater growth and obedience so that you are exercising greater faith in Jesus?