

WARM-UP

- Tell us about a skill you are confident in. How did you develop such confidence?
- When you receive unbelievable news, do you tend to keep it to yourself, or are you eager to share the news with others? Share an instance explaining this.
- Have you ever used something without knowing what it was intended for? What happened?

WORD *¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."* **JOHN 20:1-2**

When Mary Magdalene visited Jesus' tomb after His crucifixion, she discovered the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. That day signaled Christ's triumph over death, which forever changed the course of history. As believers, we are not merely bystanders to this truth, but are intimately connected to its significance. Because of Christ's resurrection, we can find assurance and confidence in His victory over sin and death. The empty tomb serves as a place of grace, hope, and redemption, reminding us that we can live with purpose, knowing that our lives are anchored in His victory and the promise of eternal life. Today, we will unfold the assurance of restoration we have because of Christ's resurrection, which allows us to proclaim His resurrection just as Mary did.

1 | Christ's resurrection assures our restoration from sin and failure.

¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. **JOHN 21:12-14**

When Jesus met with His disciples after His resurrection, He signified their restoration after they had abandoned and failed Him during His suffering and crucifixion. Jesus especially restored Peter after he had denied Christ. As Jesus shared a meal with them, signifying fellowship, they received the assurance that they were brought back to a right relationship with God. Just like the disciples, we too have received grace and restoration in Christ. Jesus' death gave us life, and we are forever changed. How has Christ's resurrection changed your life from sin and failure to life and victory?

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2 | Christ's resurrection assures the restoration of our purpose.

*He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." **JOHN 21:17***

Jesus restored Peter, even though he had denied Him three times. Jesus not only reaffirmed Peter's love and commitment, but also commissioned him to fulfill God's purpose for his life—to care for and nurture His people. This command

extends beyond Peter to all believers, emphasizing the call to serve and care for others following God's purpose. His grace empowers us to accomplish His mission and actively participate in His redemptive work by sharing what Jesus did on the cross. How have you seen God reaffirm your purpose and calling during challenging times?

3 | Christ's resurrection assures our full restoration.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 PETER 1:3-5

In Christ, Peter experienced transformation from a fearful denier to the bold apostle of hope he became known as in the early church. In the same way, Christ's resurrection assures us not only of a victorious life on earth and an eternal life with God, but also the complete restoration of humanity to its original design. We are enabled to receive God's grace, assuring our full restoration, promising our future and eternity, and securing our glorification as heirs of God's kingdom. What do you think being an heir in God's kingdom means?

APPLICATION

- In what area are you trusting that God's grace would bring restoration in your life? Write these down and commit to pray for a breakthrough.
- How does the assurance of our future, as promised in 1 Peter 1:5, impact your daily life and choices?
- What are the specific things you can do this week to fulfill something you know God is calling you to do? What can you do to help care for and nurture His people?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the assurance of restoration from sin and failure that we have through Jesus' resurrection. Pray for the perseverance to continually turn to Him for restoration and transformation, knowing that His sacrifice has brought us victory over sin and death.
- Ask for God's guidance and wisdom as you seek to fulfill His purpose for your life. Pray that God would show you the next steps you need to take in obedience to His will and empower you to walk in faith and confidence.
- Pray for someone you know who is struggling to hold on to hope amid difficult circumstances. Ask God for an opportunity this week to share the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection.



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