

SHADOWS

Shadows—Week Four: Resurrection—Jesus

Connect: How did you and your family celebrate Easter this year? Any fun traditions? Any epic Easter egg hunts? Share with the group.

Grow

1. Jon started by asking, “What was your worst moment and best moment in your life?” Apply that to Jesus’ life... how do you think He would answer that question?
2. **Read Mark 16:1-6.** Those 4 words—*He is not here*—change everything. What would it have been like to walk into the empty tomb that morning?
3. The angel highlights the contrast of what Jesus *was* with what He now *is*. He was crucified (dead), He is risen (alive). What is the significance of Jesus being resurrected? Talk about the difference between resuscitation and resurrection.
4. Of all the language Jesus could use to describe the Christian life, He uses “to be born again”. Why do you think that is? What is He wanting us to understand?
5. **Read Romans 6:3-7.** Baptism is a great picture of being born again. We are united to Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. It is an expression of faith and trust in Jesus as our sins are buried. We are cleansed and given new life. Have you been baptized? Take time to share what that decision means for you.
6. God is constantly using invitational language with us. And ultimately He invites us into His family, to be sons and daughters, to belong to Him. What is the difference of belonging to God versus merely believing in Him?
7. Jon used watermelons, ice cream, conversations, and relationships to help illustrate the awesome principle: In Heaven, everything will be better than before... for all eternity! What are you excited to see get better and better in Heaven? How should that hope affect us now?
8. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.** The party started when Jesus died and rose again. How is the resurrection a shadow of something even better yet to come?
9. Being born again is what Easter is all about. Jesus’ resurrection isn’t the end of the story, rather it’s a picture of what will someday happen to us. How can you celebrate that truth today?

Pray: Consider the invitation God is extending to all of us through Jesus’ death and resurrection: to truly be born again. Thank Him for that hope. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live your new life.

Next: Jon shared his list of what would be *no more* in Heaven. Write out your own *no more* list. Let that exercise help your trust in God’s faithfulness to grow and encourage you today.