The Resounding Resurrection

Believe It or Not

● How deep is the deepest part of the ocean?

● How many McDonald’s restaurants are in the world?

● How tall is the Statue of Liberty?

● How many miles of highway are in the United States?

● What is the average distance from the earth to the moon?

The world can be an intriguing, surprising place! Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is one of the most surprising things that has ever happened.

MATTHEW 28:1-10 (NRSV)

1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”
8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.
10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my
KEY VERSES: But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him.” — Matthew 28:5-6 (CEB)

RESURRECTION REACTION
In the Bible verses, underline or highlight the ways in which different people responded to Jesus’ resurrection.

ENGAGING THE EMPTY TOMB
How do you think you would have responded to Jesus’ death?

What emotions might you have felt? _______________________________

How do you respond now to the news of the Resurrection?

What emotions do you feel? _______________________________

SHARE THE STORY SKIT
Form groups of two or three. Have each group pick a target audience (ie. students, teachers, strangers, government leaders, etc.) and then use the following questions to create a three-minute skit to explain the Resurrection story to them.

Audience: ________________________________________________

Where would you begin the story of the Resurrection?

What details would you include?

How would you explain what the Resurrection means?

GENEROUS HOPE
Write the name (or multiple names) of someone you can give the gift of hope to this week. ________________________________
God Keeps His Promises

God Calling
Spend a few minutes responding to the following questions.

1. What is the primary way you communicate with your family? your friends?
2. What is the primary way you communicate with God?
3. How does God communicate with you? What examples can you think of from your life? from Scripture?

Haggai 2:1-9 (NRSV)

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying:

1 Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say,

2 Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?

3 Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts,

4 according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear.

5 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land;

6 and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts.

7 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts.

8 The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

KEY VERSE: This house will be more glorious than its predecessor, says the Lord of heavenly forces. I will provide prosperity in this place, says the Lord of heavenly forces. — Haggai 2:9 (CEB)
THE MESSAGE

1. What happened in the Bible verses? What questions do you have about the story? ____________________________

2. What does God want the people to do? ____________________________

3. Why haven’t the Israelites already done what God wants them to do? ____________________________

4. What does God promise the people? ____________________________

POETIC PROCESSING

A haiku is a Japanese style of poetry that has five syllables in the first and last lines and seven syllables in the second line. The poem does not have to rhyme.

Write a haiku that will help you remember who God is and your relationship to God.

______________________________________________________

5 SYLLABLES

______________________________________________________

7 SYLLABLES

______________________________________________________

5 SYLLABLES

BUILDING YOUR LIFE

Draw a big circle in the space below, then a medium circle inside of it, and a small circle at the center. (1) In the outer circle, write activities you do every day; (2) In the middle circle, write your most frequent thoughts; (3) In the center circle, state your priority in life.
● Are you happy with how your “temple” is constructed? Why or why not?

● How could you construct your life to be more focused on God?


GENEROUS LOVE
Write below a brief reminder of your responsibilities for serving your church or community in the coming week.