

- Do you have any unique Easter traditions?
- **Empty: Have you ever run out of something at an inconvenient/embarrassing time? (gas, food, money, etc.)**

Easter is a celebration of the reason for our faith, Jesus' resurrection. Without Jesus coming back from the dead, there is no Christianity. While "empty" can normally be seen as a bad thing, it can be said that Easter is really a celebration of "Empty." One of the ways, is that we celebrate that Jesus **emptied** Himself.

Have someone volunteer to read Philippians 2:5-8

- **How did Jesus empty Himself in His incarnation? How did Jesus empty Himself in His crucifixion?**

We often think about Jesus emptying Himself on the cross, but His incarnation (coming to earth as a person) is also vastly humbling. The humbling is not just because of what Jesus did, but also because Jesus denied Himself what He was due. He is deserving of worship and reigning, and still chose to come to earth. Jesus' crucifixion is also humbling in that He took on not only our sin, but also our penalty and our shame on the cross.

- **Following Jesus example, what does it look like for us to empty ourselves?**

Sacrifice. If we are to be follower of Jesus, the example He set for us is pretty powerful.

Matthew 20:28 says that "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." We are to be servants and to put others before ourselves.

The Empty tomb we celebrate on Easter is a reminder of Jesus' power over death. Jesus' resurrection also changes things for those who follow Him.

Have someone volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 6:14 and Romans 8:11

- **Jesus' resurrection also means that, for those who follow Jesus, death is not the end of our story. How should that truth change the way we live today?**

Even though we know what will happen when we die, that truth should cause us to live boldly today. It should shift our perspective and help us to live and prioritize differently. Help your group think through how their lives and purpose might shift depending on what they think happens in the end.

- **The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, now dwells within us. How does the Holy Spirit change us?**

The resurrection means more for us than just what happens when we die. Romans 8:11 reminds us that it has real implications for us **today**. The same spirit that raised Jesus now lives within us and guides us. Jesus once said that it would be more beneficial for us that He leave so that the Holy Spirit would come. As crazy as that may sound, it should give us perspective as to the importance and power the Holy Spirit has in our lives.

Have someone volunteer to read Luke 24:1-11

- **The disciples failed to believe what they are told about Jesus' power, even though they had seen and experienced God's power before. In what ways do you seem to forget God's ability in your own life?**

In the midst of the difficulty and chaos of life, sometimes we may forget God's promises. We might forget that He loves us, works things together for our good, that He is in control, that He has a plan, etc. We might look at the disciple's lack of belief and judge them, but the truth is we do the same in our own lives. There could be some good and genuine discussion about this. Be ready to share a personal example to help your group open up.

- **Even though we celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead, why does Jesus command us to remember His sacrifice through the Lord's supper? What do you think about as you partake the Lord's supper?**

If your group has the time it might be helpful to go back and read God's instructions during the first Passover – Exodus 12. In the last supper, Jesus is repurposing the Passover and indicating how He is now the sacrifice to spare us from punishment and our slavery. You can share personally what you think of when partake the Lord's supper. [We discussed several things on the leader podcast.](#)

Have someone volunteer to read Philippians 4:7

- **Even though we follow Jesus, there will be days where we feel empty. What does it mean to have peace in spite of our circumstances and in moments where we feel empty?**

Peace is about more than comfort, happiness, and pleasure. The type of peace that Jesus offers is not dependent on circumstances, and may not even make sense depending on what is happening in our lives. The truth is there will be hard times in life, and seasons where we may feel empty. Having peace does not mean that you do not feel anxiety, grief, or disappointment, but it does mean that you have a foundation and confidence on who Jesus is and who He has said you are.