

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Explain a “*What if*” dream you may have or have had. How can having one direct or drive a life? How does realizing it change life (positively or negatively)? How does never realizing it affect life?
- Nobody expected no body on the Sunday following Jesus' death. Take a moment and read again the story of the Resurrection in Matthew 28:1-10. What thoughts or observations come to mind as you read the passage?
- Read through each of the four “*What if the tomb isn't empty*” statements. How do you feel about them? Why are they core to being a Christ follower? How are they helpful in explaining the significance to a person who likes the ideas of Jesus, but doesn't buy into the resurrection of Jesus?
- Read through each of the four “*What if the tomb is empty*” statements. How do you feel about them? Why are they core to following Jesus? How are they expressed in your life? Explain how your expressions can be helpful for a person who is wondering about becoming a Christ follower. How does a lack of expressing them affect a person or family member who is wondering about following Christ?
- Understanding who Jesus is and what he has done for us is the essential to the application of Easter's message. The following passages all contain statements that Jesus made about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and any ways you can think of for how his description of himself can have an impact on our lives as Christians. (John 6:35; John 8:12; John 10:7-10; John 10:14-15; John 11:25; John 14:6) Which of the descriptions Jesus uses for himself is most encouraging to you?

Next Steps: Looking back at the four “*What if the tomb is empty*” statements and/or the descriptions of Jesus you identified, is there one or two that you'd like to keep in mind this week? If so, explain.

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses that resonated with you from this week's message and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



➤ What If the _____ isn't _____
and Jesus is still _____?

➤ Christianity would be _____ & _____.

¹⁴And face it—if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors.

1 Corinthians 15:14 MSG

➤ The _____ would be one big _____.

¹⁵And we will also be guilty of lying about God, because we have told people about him, saying that he raised Christ from death. And if no one is raised from death, then God never raised Christ from death.

1 Corinthians 15:15 ERV

➤ _____ would be a _____.

¹⁶If those who have died are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised from death, then your faith is for nothing; you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸And those in Christ who have already died are lost.

1 Corinthians 15:16-18 ERV

➤ _____ should be _____ for.

¹⁹If our hope in Christ is only for this life here on earth, then people should feel more sorry for us than for anyone else.

1 Corinthians 15:19 ERV

³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

1 Corinthians 15:32 NIV page 801

↳ What If the _____ is _____
and Jesus is _____?

²⁰ But Christ really has been raised from death—the first one of all those who will be raised. ²¹ There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. ²² Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20–22 ERV, MSG

➤ Jesus must be _____.

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.

John 14:6 ERV

¹⁹ It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; ²⁰ trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; ²¹ the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

Galatians 5:19–21 MSG

²⁸ “Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands.

Matthew 10:28 MSG

➤ My _____.

¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19 NIV page 679

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20 NIV page 679

²¹ It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

Matthew 6:21 MSG

¹⁷ These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. ¹⁸ There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 MSG

➤ _____ is too _____ to be _____.

⁶ Seek God while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand. ⁷ Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness.

Isaiah 55:6–7 MSG

²⁰ God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I got my act together, he gave me a fresh start. ²¹ Now I'm alert to God's ways; I don't take God for granted. ²² Every day I review the ways he works; I try not to miss a trick. ²³ I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step. ²⁴ God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes.

Psalms 18:20–24 MSG

Bottom Line:

Nobody expected _____;
an _____ tomb can
fill an _____ heart.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.