

Devotions Leading Into Easter

Easter is More than the Decorations & Candy

INTRO:

- Have you ever noticed how most Easter decorations aren't centered around the cross and resurrection?
- The stores are filled, with bunnies, chicks, baskets and candy.
- The candy and treats are nice, but in all reality, the presents the "Easter Bunny" leaves us aren't that awesome.
- They will all be eaten and most of his gifts will eventually be forgotten.
- Jesus, however, gave us a gift that doesn't get old or boring. Jesus gave us the gift of eternal life.
- By accepting His gift we are able to know God the Father personally.

SCRIPTURE

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Jesus' death on the cross gives us the opportunity to have a relationship with our heavenly Father and gives us the gift of eternal life.
- Prior to Jesus' death of the Cross, the children of God would have to offer a sacrifice in place of their sins, but on the Cross, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for all our sins.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- In this passage Jesus is talking to Mary and Martha after their brother Lazarus has died.
- Jesus doesn't merely say that he would cause Lazarus to come back to life (which was true) but says something much stronger, "**I am the resurrection and the life.**"
- Resurrection from the dead and genuine eternal life in fellowship with God are tied to Jesus and can only be found in relationship with Him.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Easter means more than just celebrating a historical event. It is the celebration that Jesus **IS** the Resurrection and the Life, and because of Him we can have hope, joy, and new life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about Easter and the Easter story, how is the way that we celebrate it (eggs, pastels, chocolate, etc.) not necessarily accurate?
2. What is the craziest Easter decoration you've seen?
3. What's something you enjoy about Easter?
4. Read John 14:6 What do you think this verse is telling us?
5. Why do you think Jesus is bigger and better than the typical (egg hunts and candy) way we celebrate Easter?
6. Can you share a time in your life when Jesus helped you through a difficult situation?
7. What are some ways you can work on developing a stronger relationship with Jesus?
8. How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus wants to know you personally?
9. What are some things you can thank Jesus for this Easter season?