

## Life Group Notes 4/5/2026 Mark Warren Resurrection Sunday

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

**Remember:** Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

**Leaders:** *please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions that follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.*

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

**Note:** I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, Resurrection Sunday, 4/4. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another***

**Important:** At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Footnotes are added to supply detail, and to enhance the study. Use at your discretion, and know any questions are welcomed. This week's footnotes cover:

1. [On the different accounts of the resurrection.](#)

**This format begins with an AI generated [summary of the notes](#), followed by AI generated [study questions](#). This week, [notes in full detail](#) can be found beginning on page 3:**

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### Section I: Summary

Here's "co-pilot's" AI summary of the Sermon Lifegroup Notes:

The message centers on the personal and communal meaning of the resurrection. It emphasizes that even when people feel isolated or abandoned, the resurrection declares that they are not alone and never have been. Jesus' rising from the dead means that death, loneliness, and separation from God do not have the final word. The focus shifts from the empty tomb to the living presence of Jesus now—what He is doing, where He is, and how that reality affects believers today.

A key theme is the advantage gained through Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Rather than losing His presence, believers gain something deeper and more enduring: Jesus' ongoing intercession and the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings guidance,

conviction, truth, and life, making Christ present within believers in a way that is more powerful than physical proximity alone.

The highlights also stress belonging. Because Jesus lives, believers are not forgotten, abandoned, or without hope. The resurrection draws people into God's household and into a shared life with others, forming a spiritual family rooted in God's presence. Overall, the highlighted portion calls participants to reflect on how the resurrection transforms identity, purpose, connection, and hope in everyday life.

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## Section II: Study questions

### 0–5 minutes — Opening and setting the tone

1. **Check-in:** In one word, how are you arriving tonight?
2. What stood out to you most from the message—an idea, a phrase, or a question that stayed with you?

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### 5–15 minutes — Loneliness and the human experience

1. The message begins with the idea of feeling *alone even in a crowd*. When have you experienced that, and what was happening inside you?
2. When you feel lonely or disconnected, what do you usually do to cope? Which responses are helpful, and which tend to deepen the problem?
3. How do you personally remind yourself that you are not alone when your emotions say otherwise?

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### 15–25 minutes — The resurrection and its meaning

1. As you reflect on the resurrection story, what detail or moment feels most meaningful or surprising to you?
2. Why do you think people often look for life, hope, or fulfillment in places that can't ultimately provide it?
3. The message claims that the resurrection means death does not have the final word, loneliness does not win, and separation from God is over.
  - Which of those truths do you most need to live into right now?
  - Which one do you find hardest to believe or feel?

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### 25–40 minutes — If Jesus rose, where is He now?

1. The message asks a central question: *If Jesus rose from the grave, where is He now?* How would you answer that in your own words?
2. What does it mean to you personally to think of Jesus as actively present and involved rather than distant or passive?
3. The message describes Jesus as continually interceding for us.
  - How does that reshape the way you view your struggles or failures?
  - What would change if you truly believed Jesus is advocating for you right now?
4. The disciples experienced an emotional rollercoaster between the arrest, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
  - What emotions do you imagine they went through?

- When have you experienced a similar spiritual or emotional swing?

### 40–52 minutes — The advantage of the Holy Spirit and belonging

1. Jesus said it was actually better for His followers that He went away so the Holy Spirit could come.
  - Why might God’s presence within us be an advantage over His physical presence beside us?
2. Where do you most need the Holy Spirit’s work right now—guidance, comfort, conviction, strength, or clarity?
3. The message suggests that sometimes when we feel most alone, we are not actually alone.
  - What might God be doing in seasons that feel quiet, empty, or isolating?
4. The resurrection is connected to belonging—to being part of God’s household and a spiritual family.
  - Where do you struggle most to feel like you truly belong?
  - What makes belonging difficult for you?

### 52–60 minutes — Application and prayer

1. Because Jesus lives, the message says we are not abandoned, forgotten, fighting alone, or without hope.
  - Which of those truths do you need to consciously practice this week?
2. What is one small, practical step you can take this week to live as if the resurrection is true for you personally?
3. **Closing prayer prompt:**
  - Invite the group to pray briefly for one another, focusing on loneliness, hope, belonging, and living in the reality of the resurrection.

## Section III: Complete study notes

Pastor Mark’s first question: “Have you ever felt alone, in a crowd, in a room full of people, yet with no one to talk to?”

1. Answer him.
2. What steps do you take to alleviate the feeling?
3. How do you know you are not alone?

Read Luke’s account of the Resurrection in Luke 24: <sup>1</sup>*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.* <sup>2</sup>*They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,* <sup>3</sup>*but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.* <sup>4</sup>*While they were puzzling over this, suddenly two men in radiant apparel stood beside them.*

<sup>5</sup>*As the women bowed their faces to the ground in terror, the two men asked them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”* <sup>6</sup>*He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee:* <sup>7</sup>*“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”*

<sup>8</sup>*Then they remembered His words.* <sup>9</sup>*And when they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.* <sup>10</sup>*It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary*

*the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But their words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.*

*<sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. And after bending down and seeing only the linen cloths, he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.*

1. What do you notice? Anything new?
2. Mark related a moment in his childhood when he felt abandoned. Do you have a similar story?
3. What facts do you have to know that the Resurrection is supported by history and demonstrable facts? Take a moment to compare notes.
4. Why were the women looking for the living among the dead?
5. Mark says, "The resurrection means death does not get the final word, loneliness does not win and separation from God is over." Explain.

Pastor continues, "The question is, if Jesus rose from the grave, where is He now?"

1. Answer Him.
2. What is He doing?
3. How do you know?
4. Look at Hebrews 7:<sup>24</sup>*But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup>Therefore He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them. <sup>26</sup>Such a high priest truly befits us—One who is holy, innocent, undefiled, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.* What does this passage suggest that He is doing?
5. What does that mean? What is He actually doing?
6. Describe what He did the forty days before he ascended, leaving the disciples.
7. Pastor describes the emotional rollercoaster the disciples were on from the moment Jesus was arrested until His ascension. Can you describe what they experienced emotionally?
8. Now explain John 16: <sup>5</sup>*Now, however, I am going to Him who sent Me; yet none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'* <sup>6</sup>*Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I have told you these things. <sup>7</sup>But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.* How is it to their advantage.
9. Examine the next verses: <sup>8</sup>*And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup>in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup>and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world has been condemned.* Explain the Spirit's role.
10. Continue reading: <sup>12</sup>*I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. <sup>13</sup>However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. <sup>15</sup>Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.* What advantage does the Holy Spirit bring with Him?
11. Have you heard anything from the Holy Spirit that Jesus was not able to tell His disciples? Do you have examples?

12. Look at Romans 8: <sup>10</sup>*But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.* <sup>11</sup>*And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.* What do you see? How is Christ in you?
13. How is that more advantageous than being present with Jesus?
14. Looking at this and the verse from Hebrews above, then, list the two advantages to Jesus leaving them.
15. How long did it take for them to understand their advantage?
16. Mark says, "Sometimes when we feel the most alone, we are not alone." Explain.
17. What is the purpose for which you have been drawn to a church family?
18. "Because Jesus lives, you are not abandoned, forgotten, fighting, alone or without hope." Explain.
19. Review Matthew 28: <sup>20</sup>*...And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* What does this tell you?
20. How does it speak of advantage?
21. Look up Ephesians 2: <sup>9</sup>*Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household,* <sup>20</sup>*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.* <sup>21</sup>*In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.* <sup>22</sup>*And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.* How does Paul see the advantage? Explain.
22. In addition to the Holy Spirit, what else have we been given?
23. Mark adds, "Jesus rose from the dead to give you belonging." Explain.

**Take the time to pray.**

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### Follow up application:

1. Use the **Soap study below** to pursue your own understanding.
  2. Make a list of those advantages you have benefitted from since the resurrection?
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### Footnotes:

1. **On the differing accounts of the Resurrection**—Critics of the biblical narrative note that the accounts differ, and suggest that this points to inauthenticity. In fact, the difference highlights the humanity of the authors. Luke claims in his opening statement to have set out to "to write an orderly account" for us, <sup>4</sup>so that [we] might know the certainty of the things we have been taught." As we saw above, Luke then sets out to relate the account of the resurrection on this manner: "... <sup>11</sup>*But their words seemed like nonsense to [the apostles], and they did not believe the women.* <sup>12</sup>*Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb...* It would seem that in John's eyes, Luke forgets a VERY important detail, especially important to John. Here's John's account, from chapter 20: <sup>2</sup>*So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said, "and we do not know where they have put Him!"* <sup>3</sup>*Then Peter and the other disciple set out for the tomb.* <sup>4</sup>*The two were running together, but the other*

*disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down and looked in at the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Simon Peter arrived just after him. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup>The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was rolled up, lying separate from the linen cloths. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. And he saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>For they still did not understand from the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.* What do you notice? Who else ran to the tomb with Peter, although he's so "humble" he doesn't see fit to mention his own name? Who actually got to the tomb first? (Why is it important that we know who actually got there first?) Who entered the tomb first? Which of the two hesitated (ostensibly, because contact with the dead would make a Jew unclean)? Therefore which was more discrete? Remembering how often the disciples quibbled over which was the greatest, how do you suppose John felt when Luke left him out of the account completely? Why does the sheer humanness of his account help buttress the claim of authenticity?

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### For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Luke 24:1-7
Tuesday: Luke 24:8-12
Wednesday: John 20:1-6
Thursday: Hebrews 7:24-26
Friday: John 16:7-11
Saturday: John 16:12-14
Sunday: Romans 8:10-11

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.