

EASTER

Bridge City
CHURCH

Easter

April 7, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

Easter brings us to the central moment of the Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus. After the pain of the cross and the silence of the tomb, Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV) presents a scene that completely changes the course of history: the tomb is empty, and the angel's announcement opens a new reality for those who had lived through days of sorrow, uncertainty, and fear. The women arrived carrying the weight of grief, but they encountered news that turned their fear into movement: Jesus has risen. Everything begins with an invitation to come closer and see what God has done. The resurrection confirms that Jesus defeated death and that fear no longer defines the future of those who trust in Him. Although fear remains a real experience, it no longer holds final authority over our lives.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. In **Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)**, when the women hear "Do not be afraid" before fully understanding what is happening, what does this show us about how God works in moments of uncertainty?
2. The women went to the tomb prepared for a moment of mourning, but they encountered a completely different reality; how do you respond when God works in a way different from what you expected?
3. **Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)** teaches that Jesus defeated death to free those who lived under fear; what kind of fear do you think most often tries to limit the way you move forward today? What changes when you remember what Jesus has already overcome?

Fear loses its power when Jesus rises.



MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Jesus' resurrection changes everything:

1. **Come and see.** Take a few minutes this week to remember a moment when God clearly worked in your life. Looking again at what He has already done strengthens your trust today.
2. **Now go.** Think about a conversation, decision, or step you have avoided because of fear, and move forward in something concrete this week. Walking in faith also means moving while questions remain.
3. **Remember, He goes ahead.** Before making a decision, pause and place before God what is worrying you. Remembering that Jesus goes ahead of you can give you peace to move forward.



PRAYER

"Lord, thank You because Jesus' resurrection changed our story forever. Thank You because where things seemed finished, You brought life, hope, and victory. Help me remember this week that fear does not have the final word. Teach me to walk trusting that You still go before me."



TIPS

- Many decisions of faith begin with a small step, even with fear present.
- If something worries, remember that the resurrection is a present truth, not only a memory of the past.
- Don't forget that, even when you cannot see it, God has already prepared the way.



BAPTISM

<https://bridgcitymd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1366507>

