

**Easter Exclamations**  
**“Just As He Said”**  
**Discussion Guide**

Every Christmas people ask about favorite Christmas memories. Do you have a favorite Easter memory? Favorite traditions? Have you ever had an unconventional celebration of Easter?

**Read Matthew 28:1-10**

How do you think Mary and Mary were feeling on their way to the tomb of Jesus?

The disciples didn't come to the tomb. (as a group – but John 20 records that Peter and John after hearing from Mary, ran to the tomb to check it out). Why would it be wise for the men to keep their distance from the tomb?

The first words from the angel's mouth were “don't be afraid”. Make a list of all the reasons the women would be afraid. Notice in verse 8 that they couldn't follow the angel's advice.

According to Matthew, Jesus first appeared to these very women (and not the male followers). Do you think that is significant? Meaningful? Why or why not?

**Read verses 11-15**

What is Matthew explaining? Why do you think at the time Matthew was writing this it was so critical to him to make those verses public?

Do you think it is easier to believe in Jesus now (his divinity, death and resurrection) or if you were living in Jerusalem back then? (assuming you didn't actually see the resurrected Jesus)

**“Just as He said”** is a reference to the fact that Jesus told the disciples and even the religious leaders that he knew what would happen to Him and that he would rise from the dead. Why is this pre-knowledge critical to our view of Jesus?

Here are the passages Doug showed that pertain to Jesus' telling people about his death and resurrection. Review them and wrestle with any questions or insights you gain.

**John 2:18-22**

**Matthew 16:21-23**

**Matthew 12:38-40**

**Now read Mark 9:30-32**

What do you learn about Jesus relationship with the disciples?

What did Jesus say about his future?

How did the disciples receive the news?

How does knowing the disciples were afraid to ask make you feel? When do you become afraid to ask?

## **DAY 2**

What does 'day two' refer to in the message (for the disciples)?

Why do you think the disciples were so despondent if Jesus has warned them or told them the plan of his future abuse, trial, death and resurrection?

How could Peter deny Jesus right after Jesus told him he would?

Doug's explanation is that the higher our emotions, the more difficult remembering is. The death of Jesus must have been the greatest emotional experience of their lives.

Can you think of a time when your emotions were so high that remembering was difficult?

Day 2 is a day when faith is hard to remember. How is this consistent with the time when the disciples were on a boat with Jesus and a storm arose and they woke Jesus up. He told them they had a small or struggling faith.

Talk about the videos we showed about Irene and Nate's adoption experience and Dawn's story of the death of her son (Alex)? Why were those stories powerful?

Can you think of a time when you've experienced 'Day 2'?  
How was your faith challenged?

What is encouraging about the Disciples' day 2 story for us?

How do we and the disciples share the same struggle when it comes to "just as he said"?

What things can you think of that Jesus said that you need to remember and believe?

**Pray for each other** ----- especially if any of you are feeling like you are in a current "day 2".