**“Easter Weekend”**

Discussion Questions

**Good Friday**: (John 19:30)

1) Can you think of a recent project or task that you managed to complete? What feelings did you experience when you were able to say... “It is finished”? What do you imagine Jesus was feeling when He uttered those words?

2) Read Hebrews 2:14-15. In what sense did Jesus “break the power” of Satan by His work on the cross? How exactly does Satan hold the power of death? How does the fear of death hold us in lifelong slavery?

3) Do you give much thought to the activity of Satan in your life? In what ways (if any) do you believe Satan has sought to “destroy” you? Should we be more wary of Satan and his schemes (consider Zech. 3;1-2, John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8-9)?

4) What reason is given in 1 Cor. 1:26-30 for God choosing to save through the cross? Why is the content of our “boasting” of such concern to God? What might these verses suggest about how we should view the world and/or interact with it?

5) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Why, according to these verses, is it so important that Jesus lived as a man among us and died on the cross? What does Jesus’ example in this suggest for our own ministry to others in the Body of Christ?

6) What does Christ’s finishing work on the cross mean to you (peace, confidence, comfort, etc.)? What aspect of that work is the most significant for you right now? Explain.

**Saturday:** (Luke 23:46)

1) Consider Luke 23:44-45. What events are depicted there? Why do you think Luke recorded them (how are they significant)?

2) In verse 46 Jesus declares that He is committing His Spirit to the Father. Would you say that Jesus was forced to go to the cross and die (or that He did so voluntarily)? In considering your answer, review also John 10:11, 17-18, 18:1-11. How does your answer impact your faith?

3) What do these final words of Christ tell us about the relationship Jesus has with His Father? Review John 5:30, 10:29-30, 14:10, 17:4. What kinds of things can we do to nurture that kind of relationship with God?

4) Read Luke 23:47-49. What are the different reactions to Jesus’ death pictured in these verses? What do they suggest about the impact of Christ’s example on the cross?

5) Is there anything we can take from Christ’s example in His final moments about the way we should face our own death?

**Easter Sunday:** (Matthew 28:1-10)

1) How important is the historical fact of the resurrection? Check out 1 Cor. 15:14-19.

2) Imagine that you were with Mary when she went to see the tomb (Matt. 28:1-10). What do you imagine that experience would have been like? How would you have reacted?

3) Review the account of the resurrection in John 20:1-29. Take note of the different ways Jesus reveals Himself to His followers after His resurrection. What might His method of self- revelation suggest about the way He deals with us and nurtures our faith?

4) What does the resurrection of Christ mean for our expectation of things beyond this life? Look at John 11:25-26, Rom. 8:11, 1 Thess. 4:15-18, 1 Peter 1:3-9.

5) How does the resurrection impact our faith in the here and now? See Hosea 6:3, Rom. 6:4, 1 Cor. 15:56-58, 2 Cor. 5:17, Phil. 3:10, Col. 3:1-3 , Hebrews 4:14-16.

6) How effective are we (as a church) in declaring the reality of the resurrection? Are there things we could do to be more effective? Explain.

7) In what way do you most need to see Christ’s resurrection power at work in your life right now? Take some time to commit this need to Jesus in prayer and ask for His resurrection life to be at work in you.

8) Has this Easter been different from past Easters for you (given the circumstances our society finds itself in right now)? Do you see some changes you want to make in your life... or in the way you observe Easter in future years? Explain.