

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Easter at Northview
March 30th and 31st, 2024
Pastor CJ Johnson**

Opening Questions

- Welcome! Has the cat got your tongue? Bite the bullet? Break a leg? Our culture uses many strange clichés with historical precedence and meaning that we often don't realize. Do you use any clichés or sayings regularly that, on second thought, you aren't sure what they mean? What "church" sayings do you think people use that others who don't regularly attend church might not understand without the proper biblical context?

Open Your Group with Prayer

- Ask someone to open in prayer and bless your discussion together.

Scripture Passages

- Groups will begin the discussion by reading some of the message's key scriptures aloud. Please assign the following to read: Genesis 3:14-15, Leviticus 16:20-22, John 20:1-18

Questions from the Message

- The Old Testament sacrificial system was often about buying grace on credit, a system to atone for sin and shame, and receiving forgiveness with the anticipation of the day when the Messiah would make it unnecessary. When God was talking to the snake (Satan) in Genesis, what did he say would be the snake's outcome? What was the purpose of the scapegoat in Leviticus? How do these verses point toward Jesus?
- When the disciples saw the strips of linen in the empty tomb, they began to theorize what could have happened. Still, Mary Magdalen became the first to experience the reality of the resurrection and carry that news to all believers. How does this further validate the truth behind the story of the resurrection? What do you feel is the significance of this moment for Mary? How did you first hear about the resurrection of Jesus? How did that become more than just knowledge for you but belief in the truth of the historical event?
- Because Jesus died a vicious death, you can now live a victorious life. Emptiness exists in the tomb so you can have fullness in your life. Jesus forgives us of all our sins, those in the past, present, and even into the future. Jesus also robs us of our shame. He was the third thief on the cross. Talk about how you have experienced the reality of what Jesus has done for you. How does the truth of the resurrection change your behavior?
- What is God challenging you to do in response to this discussion? Get practical. What will you do this week?

Close Your Group with Prayer

- Pray together for your application and response points from your discussion as a group. Share any praises, joys, or areas of concern. How can this group be praying for you and your family this week? *(Please ask someone to distribute these via GroupMe, text, or email so you can pray for one another throughout the week.)*