



## CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing? What's something that brought you joy this week?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

## SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Christians sometimes seem to think that following Jesus means being positive all the time. But this is not what we see from Jesus. What do you think of the idea that "Emotional health begins with facing reality"?
- The disciples initially struggled to believe in the resurrection. How do you relate to their doubt or amazement? What experiences or reflections have strengthened your belief in God's power to bring life out of death?
- Peter Rollins challenges believers to affirm the resurrection not only in belief but in action. What is one practical way you can stand against injustice and proclaim "Jesus is alive" with your actions this week?

## DID YOU KNOW?

In Jesus' time, the idea of *Resurrection of the Dead* was a widely held belief among Jewish groups like the Pharisees. This belief, rooted in passages like Daniel 12:2 ("Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake..."), emphasized that God would one day restore justice by raising the dead and establishing His reign fully. Early Christians took this belief even further, proclaiming that Jesus' own resurrection was the first of many to come—a promise of new creation and ultimate victory over sin and death. This idea is foundational to Christian hope and informs our faith that suffering and death do not get the last word.