

EASTER

Message Video:

[Easter at CBG](#)

This is the season to read your Bible.

- Best place to start are the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

John 11 -- Jesus' friend, Lazarus was sick

- So many things are cancelled right now
- So much pressure and stress
- Jesus is a healer
 - This time His friend is the one very, very sick
- Lazarus lived in Jerusalem which is where the majority of the Jesus-haters were
- Thomas spoke up negatively saying if they went they would die, too.

John 16:33 – In this world you will have trouble.

- Jesus guarantees trouble for all people.
- Jesus said this world is beautiful and broken
- COVID-19 is a real thing
- Faith is not spiritualized denial
- We acknowledge the trouble.
 - “Trouble” translates to tribulation
 - Originally meaning medical constriction of an organ. A disease squeezing the life out of your respiratory system and putting pressure on you.
- When there is trouble, there is stress and worry.
- New series: Bless My Stress

What do you do with your anxiety?

- 1 Peter 5:7 – CAST all your anxiety on God

- Don't hide your anxiety from God. Let Him invade your anxiety.
- Cast is a continual process.
 - Not a temporary, instantaneous solution where God fixes all your problems.
- You need to worship to see how huge God is.
 - Change your perspective.
 - God is bigger than your worries.
- Focus on God's promises, not my problems.
 - Romans 8:28 – God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him.
 - God does not cause all things, but He can USE all things for His good.

How should we respond in times of stress?

- HELP
 - The early Christians were persecuted, but two pandemics changed the perception of Christians because the Church were spiritual first responders.
 - They showed that they loved people.
- SHARE
 - We are called to share at ALL times.
 - We cannot meet physically, but we can meet virtually.
 - The online invite is EASY! Church is a click away.
 - Share, share, share!
- BELIEVE
 - Faith begins under pressure.
 - Pressure and stress can be an incubator for faith
 - Circumstances are unstable.
 - Jesus is a Rock, shelter, refuge.

John 20 -- Jesus appears to 10 disciples.

- Thomas is not there.

- The other disciples tell Thomas they saw Jesus, but he is too brokenhearted to believe.
- Thomas said he would believe when he saw.
- When Jesus appeared to him, Jesus said Thomas believed because he saw, but more blessed are those who believe without seeing.
- Your faith can grow under pressure.

COVID-19 has taken away so much, but it cannot take away

- Our faith
- Our worship
- Our loyalty to our King

John 16:33 – Be fearless, Jesus has overcome the world!!

So many things are cancelled, but NOT

- Our worship
- The promises of God
- Our loving each other
- Our praying for the sick
- Our helping our neighbors
- God's grace, mercy, and peace

We are the church of our Resurrected King!

Discussion Questions

Remember to pick and choose which questions make the most sense for your LifeGroup.

1. Have you been reading your Bible? If so, what scriptures have stood out to you lately?
2. What are you most disappointed about that is cancelled?
3. Read John 11:1-16. Have you been listening to the negative people in your life?
4. Read John 16:33. What is your response to Jesus saying that all people will have trouble?
5. How have you reacted to the “trouble” of COVID-19?
6. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What do you do with your anxiety? Do you hide it from God, give it to Him temporarily, or continually cast it on Him?
7. What steps can we take to continually cast our anxiety on God?
8. How has worship changed your perspective of God in comparison to your worries?
9. What are some promises of God you can focus on instead of your problems?
10. Read Romans 8:28. How does this verse affect the world view that God is the cause of all things?
11. Read Romans 8:28. Who do you know who needs to hear this promise?
12. How can you help and show God’s love to others during this season?
13. What are ways you can share the Gospel with others?
14. How have you seen your faith grow under the pressure of this pandemic?
15. Read John 16:33. In spite of all the things that are cancelled, what are things you can STILL do?