

## Come Awake!



Tommy Gray | April 24, 2011

### In a nutshell:

On the Emmaus road the disciples said, “they had hoped” that Jesus was the One... the Messiah. The crucifixion dashed their hopes, but the resurrection changed everything. The Risen Christ gives us true hope.

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**Icebreaker:** We all have hopes for the future of our family, our career, our homes, and our lives. But Jesus said, “in this world you will have trouble...” (John 16:33).

**Discuss:** Think back a few years. Can you recall a relationship or experience for which you had big hopes... that were later crushed? What was that hope? How did it turn out?

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### How the Risen Christ enables us to Come Awake:

Our greatest need is not the absence of suffering but the **presence of the risen Christ** in our lives. The only way we can celebrate Easter fully is to appreciate the weight of the cross and appreciate the magnitude of the change it brought.

The Risen Christ **replaces our anxiety with peace**. John 20:19 says, “... the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” The disciples were afraid that what happened to Jesus was about to happen to them.

**Discuss:** Christians around the world are under threat of ostracism, torture, and death, for following Christ. How does your freedom to follow Christ make you feel?

The Risen Christ **replaces our sorrow with joy**. “You have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” (John 16:22)

**Discuss:** Have you lost someone you loved? If you could see them again, what would you say to them?

The Risen Christ **replaces our despair with hope**. I Peter 1:3 says “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” Our hope does not end when we breathe our last on this earth. We have hope today, *and* in the future.

**Discuss:** Which is more significant to you *right now*: hope for eternity, or hope for today? Explain why.

**As a Group:** An early church martyr was about to be burned at the stake when he called out “He is risen!” Christians watching from the protection of the surrounding woods responded, “He is risen indeed!”

**Discuss:** When our brothers and sisters in Christ (in this group, our area, or across the globe) are facing “trouble in this world,” what should our response be?