



## Portraits of the King – Week 16 - Victory of the King

“The Ultimate ‘I Told You So’” - Matthew 28:1–10

### Leader Notes

#### Teaching Themes

1. **The resurrection vindicates the word of Jesus:** Matthew’s emphasis is not only that Jesus is alive, but that He rose exactly as He promised.
2. **Easter confirms hard truths and good promises:** The resurrection validates Jesus’ warnings about sin, death, and judgment, and His promises of victory, forgiveness, and new life.
3. **The resurrection moves us from witness to worship to witness:** The women come, see, fear, rejoice, worship, and then go tell.

#### Historical and Biblical Context

The women are the first witnesses at the tomb. In the first-century world, that detail would not have been chosen if someone were inventing a story to sound more persuasive.

The tomb had been guarded and sealed. A seal represented authority, closure, and finality. Easter announces that Jesus has greater authority than the final word of death.

Matthew places earthquakes at both the cross and the tomb, showing creation itself bearing witness to the death and resurrection of the King.

In the larger biblical story, Easter is the turning point from curse to new creation: the cross pays for sin, and the resurrection publicly declares Christ’s victory.

#### Devotional Preparation for Leaders

Sit with the phrase “just as He said.” Ask yourself: What has Jesus clearly said that I am still struggling to believe?

Do not lead this lesson only as a proof of the resurrection. Lead it as resurrection comfort. This passage is meant to strengthen tired saints, confront shame, and awaken hope.

Before group, identify one place in your own life that feels sealed shut. Bring that place honestly to the risen Christ and let Easter preach to you before you teach it to others.

# Group Guide

## Getting Started

1. When you hear the phrase “I told you so,” do you usually think of something frustrating, something humorous, or something satisfying? Why?

**Main Idea:** Because Jesus rose just as He said, everything He said can be trusted. Easter tells us that the hard truths, the good promises, and even the impossible things Jesus spoke are all true.

## Just as He Said - Read Matthew 28:1–6 and Matthew 16:21.

*The angel’s words are stunning in their simplicity: “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”*

*The resurrection is presented not as a random surprise but as the fulfillment of Jesus’ own repeated promise. The notes emphasize that Jesus said this multiple times in the Gospels. Easter is the ultimate “I told you so.”*

2. Why do you think the phrase “just as he said” matters so much in the resurrection story?
  - a. Anticipated answers: It shows the resurrection was promised, not accidental. Easter is not merely about power on display, but the fulfillment of Jesus’ own word.
3. What does the resurrection prove about Jesus—not only about His power, but about the trustworthiness of His word?
  - a. Anticipated answers: It proves He is not a failed Messiah. He can be trusted in what He teaches, what He promises, and what He warns against.
4. Where in your life right now do you most need to remember: if Jesus was right about the resurrection, He can be trusted in everything else too?

## The Tough and Good “I Told You So’s” - Read John 16:33, Hebrews 9:27, Romans 3:23

*The hard things Jesus said and the hopeful things He promised are true. The hard truths include: trouble is real, sin is real, judgment is real. But the good news is also real: in Christ, victory is given to us. We don’t fight for victory—we live from it.*

5. What “tough truth” about the Christian faith is hardest for people to accept today: that this world includes real trouble, that all have sinned, or that judgment is real? Why?
  - a. Anticipated answers: Many resist judgment because it confronts autonomy. Others resist sin because they prefer therapeutic categories over moral ones. Some assume suffering means God has failed them.

6. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, “He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” What does it mean to live from a place of victory instead of merely hoping one day to find victory?
  - a. Anticipated answers: It means we fight from acceptance, not for acceptance. We are no longer defined by guilt, shame, or fear because Christ’s victory becomes the believer’s victory.
7. Living *in* the shame of your sin is in conflict to living *in* Christ. How does the resurrection speak to the way many people still live trapped in old labels or old failures?

## **Jesus Breaks the Impossible Seals Read Matthew 27:65–66, Matthew 28:2, Ephesians 4:30, and Romans 10:9–10.**

*A seal in the ancient world marked something final, closed, impossible to change. The tomb was sealed. Daniel’s den was sealed. Revelation 5 shows seals no one can open except the triumphant Lion of Judah. Easter announces that Jesus breaks what seems unbreakable.*

8. What are some of the “seals” people tend to believe are over their lives—things that feel closed, condemned, final, or beyond hope?
9. If Easter says Jesus is still breaking seals, what would it look like for you this week to trust Him with one area of your life that feels stuck, sealed off, or impossible?

## **Prayer**

Pray for three things:

- Trust in Jesus’ word because He rose *just as He said*
- Freedom to live from His victory instead of from shame, guilt, or fear
- Faith to believe that no sealed, impossible place is beyond the risen King

## Commentary & Resource Sheet

[Enduring Word – Matthew 28](#)

[Ligonier – The Resurrection of Jesus](#)

### Pertinent Articles

[Women as the first witnesses](#) - The Gospel Coalition article on why the women at the tomb are historically and apologetically significant.

[Historical confidence in the resurrection](#) - The Gospel Coalition article summarizing key historical reasons Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead.

[Matthew 28 resource hub](#) - Ligonier's Matthew 28 page with short audio and article resources for further study.

### Final Leader Encouragement

Lead this week not merely as someone who knows the resurrection happened, but as someone who is learning to live in the freedom of “just as He said.”