

ALIVE

+

FREE

## WEEK 1

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class.

**This lesson reminds us that Easter is not a day but a lifestyle. Jesus did not die and rise again so that we could shuffle through life. He came to redeem us and to release us to be who we were created to be... Alive + Free!**

**1** Easter is a person, not just a doctrine; and it's always easier to acknowledge a doctrine than it is to surrender to a person. ***Easter is a person to trust.*** Read **John 11:25-26**. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life". What was Jesus asking when he said "Do you believe this?"

**2** Read **John 11:38-43**. Never put a period where God puts a comma. God is no respecter of stones, but He is the redeemer of those trapped behind them. What are some other examples of "fourth day moments" in the Bible where God refused to allow decay to win the day?

**3** We must realize that Jesus found all of us just like he found Lazarus—dead! Read **Ephesians 2:1-5**. In what way is salvation a resurrection miracle? Why can salvation only be by grace only?

**4** Read **John 11:44**. Lazarus was raised from the dead but still bound by grave clothes. Is it possible to have new life in Christ but still imprisoned by the old life of death?

**5** You don't get free and come to Jesus; you come to Jesus and get free. ***"Freedom is the capacity to be who you are recreated in Christ to be."*** What did Rick mean by that?

**6** Jesus gives us hope, calls us out, and sets us loose. However, many believers, even though they have been raised to life, are still wrapped in the garb of death. They are still bound by the fashions of their old life. What are the areas where Christians most need to experience freedom in Christ?

**7** Many of us have experienced freedom in Christ in an area long after we were saved. Encourage one another by sharing some of those stories.

**ACTION STEP** Easter is a person to trust and freedom is a promise to wear. This week reflect on this scripture, "He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone" (**1 Timothy 2:6, NLT**). Write down one thing that is still holding you in bondage. Talk to Jesus about it and share it with a friend. Stop listening to the voice of bondage and start listening to the voice of Jesus.