



STUDY GUIDE

March 31, 2024

**Message Series:**

Changed

**Message Title:**

Changed by Jesus

**Teaching Pastor:**

Brian Hughes

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min.)

Share a favorite Easter memory or tradition.

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, we are so grateful for who You are and what You've done for us. Whether we've heard the Easter story many times or whether we are just understanding the significance of it for the first time, we ask that You open our minds and our hearts to the Truth and to the relevance of that Truth to our lives. Let this change us from the inside out, and mold us into Your image so that we can fulfill Your purpose for our lives here on this earth. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Get Started:** (20 min.)

- What has helped to deepen your understanding of the gravity of Jesus's crucifixion?

*"Jesus is betrayed...arrested covertly, accused falsely, convicted unjustly, beaten brutally. He's spit upon, crucified with nails through his hands and feet, hoisted on a cross for the crowd to see, bleeding and suffocating, hardly recognizable through the swelling and the blood, crying out NOT for revenge but for the forgiveness of an angry crowd happy to watch him suffer. It's almost as if Jesus wished for the demons to come out of them, too. And that would have happened, if they had just asked. If they had wanted it. If they had recognized that demons come in many forms - you don't have to be writhing on the floor and foaming at the mouth. Spewing hatred is demonic. Abusing someone is demonic. Addiction is demonic. Greed is demonic. Viewing people as less-than, like the way people looked at Mary Magdalene, that's demonic too. Jesus would have cast those demons out, changed their lives the way he changed Mary's life, but they first had to want the help. They had to humble themselves enough to recognize the need for help. It's not easy to admit that a darkness lives inside of you."* -Pastor Brian Hughes

- What does it feel like to admit there is a darkness inside of you?
- Is it hardest to confess your darkness/sin to yourself, to God, or to others? Why?

**Watch and Discuss Video:** (Running time 12 min./20 min. discussion)

1. The Resurrection Redeems our Past
2. The Resurrection Repurposes our Present
3. The Resurrection Restores our Future

- Describe what it was like when you realized that your sins were forgiven, that your past was redeemed?
- What does it mean for you personally that the resurrection repurposes your present and restores your future?

**\*Longer reading if time allows\* Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-57.**

- What word or phrase stood out to you and why do you think that is?

**Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)**

*“Mary!” Jesus said.*

*She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!”*

*“Rabboni means teacher - HER teacher. It was her way of acknowledging the truth. It was undeniable now. His distinct connection to her, her proximity to him, when he called her name, she knew. She recognized him - and seeing him alive brought back all of the hope and flushed all of the grief. In an instant the realization of the resurrection made permanent the change Jesus had made in her life. It wasn't a hoax, it wasn't temporary. It wasn't magic. With Jesus's resurrection, she turned from crying at the cross to celebrating at the empty tomb.” -Pastor Brian Hughes*

**Read John 20:11-18.**

- What does it mean that Mary is the first person Jesus visits after he comes back to life? What does it mean that she is the first witness, and the first messenger of the Resurrection?

*“Mary is named in every single one of the Gospel accounts. Others are picked up here and there, but Mary is never left out. The message is clear: She was the least likely disciple, but Jesus loved her too. He changed her life and turned her around all because he loved her.*

*That's true for you and me, too. There isn't a person here today who hasn't either BEEN changed by Jesus or NEEDS TO BE changed by Jesus. Like Mary, you can turn your skepticism to the most amazing proclamation that will lead to the most amazing transformation. Like Mary, you can recognize the truth: He is not Dead. He is alive. And all for one reason: He loves us. He wants to save us. All that he did was FOR us. And now we have a choice. You can do with him what you want. But as for me, He IS King Jesus!” -Pastor Brian Hughes*

- What is one way you have taken a step toward transformation in the last year?
- What is one habit/practice you can start today to give evidence that you are saved by King Jesus?

**Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)**

**Pray:**

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that You gave Your one and only Son, that we might be called Your children too. Help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter *everyday*. Let us have hearts of hope and thankfulness for Your sacrifice and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that grace and tell Your Good News to the world. It's all for Your glory Lord. Amen.