EASTER
April 3–4, 2021
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REDCEDAR church

WARM-UP

What is your favorite Easter tradition?

DISCUSS

Read John 8:31–47

- In what way does truth set someone free?
    - From what does it set us free? (List some of the consequences of sin.)
- What did Jesus say proves someone is one of his disciples?
- Can someone make an outward profession of belief while not being a true believer? Explain.
- Discuss what it means to "remain faithful" to Jesus's teachings versus giving lip service to saying you believe.

The people listening to Jesus got confused by his statement and wanted to literally apply it.

- What did Jesus mean when he talked about how he, the Son, could set them free?
- We cannot break free from the power of sin with our own strength, but what are some of the ways people try to get free without God's help?

These people were so convinced of their own preconceived ideas that they missed what Jesus was saying. They weren't really listening.

- When have you discovered that you'd missed something God said, but then you saw a passage with new eyes?
- What preconceived idea did you have about God or church in the past that hindered you from truth?

Read John 8:48–58

Notice how when Jesus continued, they turned on him and condemned him, even though he spoke truth.

- Discuss the consequences of when we don't listen to caution from God's Word.
- Jesus promised in verse 51 to overcome death, and their response was, "Who do you think you are?" Describe why Jesus was so much greater than Abraham.

NEXT STEP

We *can* gain understanding and have our eyes opened when we apply the truth from God's Word to our lives.

Read Ephesians 1:18–20

- What confident hope do you have because of Easter?

Once we begin a relationship with Jesus Christ then the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us in every area of our life.

- If you are ready to invite Jesus to apply his resurrection power to the areas of your life where you need it most, ask the group to pray specifically over you right now, asking God to remove any barriers or chains.

PRAYER

In groups of 2–4, share what you identified as your next step. Then take turns praying for each other's needs.