Sermon Outline

Key verse

God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Acts 2:24

The resurrection of Jesus is central to our faith

1. The resurrection shows God's power

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Acts 2:22

2. The resurrection shows God's plan

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Acts 2:23

3. The resurrection shows God's presence

David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

Acts 2:25

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FEBRUARY 11

Opening Thought

The early church was tasked with proclaiming the good news. Over the next seven weeks we will explore sermons from the book of Acts. These proclamations were powerful in spreading the hope of Christ and they are helpful to us in our mission of sharing the life-giving power of Jesus with the world.

Ice breakers

- Can you think of a time when you gave good advice that went unheeded?
- What parts of history tend to fascinate you the most?
 (global wars, American history, missionaries, Anabaptist movement, Cleveland sports, etc.)

Dig Deeper

- Read Acts 2:22-24 in a few different translations. Look for words associated with power. Do any words or phrases stand out?
- Group quiz: What did the first church believe in? What was the central message of the first church? Where in Acts do you go to get your answer?
- What from the speech at Pentecost were you familiar with? What in this story was new for you?
- What will God do for the one who makes the inner commitment of repentance and the outer declaration of baptism? (see Acts 2:38)
- Verse 41 tells us that about 3,000 people were added to their number that day. How many believers were there in Jerusalem at that time? (see Acts 1:15). What is your reaction to their growth?
- What stood out to you from today's sermon?

Closing

The resurrection of Jesus is an important proclamation! Boldly share what it means in your life. And remember what Jesus said in Luke 12: When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say. (Luke 12:11-12)