

**Title:** Easter: First Day of the New Creation // **Scripture:** John 20

**ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME** 15-20 minutes

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

**SERMON REVIEW** 5-10 minutes

For many, the most powerful words in our lives have been spoken by those closest to us. The Bible begins in the book of Genesis with the story of God creating with His words—words so powerful that they called the entire cosmos into existence from nothing. Then the Gospel of John tells us that God’s “Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14).

At the cross, it appeared that Jesus—the Word of God—had been defeated and was not as powerful as sin, evil and death. But then, on Easter Sunday, the Word of God emerged from the grave, victorious over darkness and speaking with power to call *new* creation into existence.

**THE MAIN THOUGHT** *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

It is finished. It is beginning!

**SEE IT – Questions** 10-15 minutes

**Picture:**

What happened between the death and resurrection of Jesus? (Burial cloths? Garden? Breath?) What became of brokenness?

**Mirror:**

What does the new creation—Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection—mean for you right now? Take a few minutes and testify to each other about this.

**Window:**

Where does the singularity of the resurrection need to spread into the particularities of everyday life? Think about this for a few minutes, then brainstorm together, collecting names of people and places. You may want to collect the names of these people and places in a way that helps your group be able to continue to pray for them.

**BE IT – Practice**

**Change UP // Exercise** 15 minutes

If you’re meeting in the daytime, take 15 minutes and prayer-walk outside, noticing the splendor of creation. If it’s dark outside, take time to stand outside and wonder at the heavens and think about the enormity of space. Then have a time of prayer and praise to our amazing Creator.

**Change IN // Group Activity** 10 minutes

Leader: Have a cup and three small pieces of paper for each person. Each person will write a note for three other people in the group. The note should say, “This is how/when/where I have seen Jesus in you.” Then everyone will fill each other’s cups with these words of encouragement.

**Change OUT // Life Application Assignment** 15 minutes

Usually under “out” we focus on bringing the Kingdom to the unreached. This week we want you to think about how the New Creation means a new family—how we are One Church, with one Father and one Mission. In the gathering on Sunday we saw a video about what God is doing in Marietta. Take time to pray for that house church and for the process of Grace-Marietta becoming a reality.

Also, make a plan for how you will bless someone from a different church body this week. Practice being one family with someone who is not part of the Grace Family of churches!

**CLOSING PRAYER** 5 minutes

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.