

**SERIES - EASTER AT COMMUNITY****Out of the Shadows - Into the Light****MESSAGE BIG IDEA**

Jesus' resurrection challenges us to step away from the periphery to the center of God's story.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1016 & John 19:38-42

ICE BREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

These are designed to open the discussion up for the whole group. It's not essential that every person answers every question, but use these two to help everyone have a chance to contribute at least once.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read through the scriptures slowly and let people ask questions. The movement from shadows to light can be challenging to imagine, but Nicodemus' story can help other people see themselves in that same movement from fringes to center. It could also be helpful to read the scriptures in various translations.

LIFE APPLICATION

Allow your group to think through the questions. Some of these might be new ideas. Make sure they know that not everyone has to answer, nor are there 'correct' answers to the questions.

The difference between believing and behaving is a subtle one but can be life transforming. Being right with God isn't about behavior – it's about belief. Belief leads to action, but it is not the action itself. We will all make mistakes and will have times when we miserably fail to live up to even our standards, but God is still there.

CHALLENGE

Think and pray about how you want God to transform your life. Where are the places you're sitting on the sidelines and where have you been called into a greater engagement? Make a plan to add one intentional way of opening yourself up to God's transformative power this week.