

# DEF FAITH

## Week Four: All Things New - Study Guide

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Have you ever been sold out for a cause and thought everyone else should be as well? When you shared it with people, some joined you, and yet others simply walked away. When it comes to sharing Jesus, there is no greater message we can tell others. Some people will receive it and others will simply reject it. In this week's study, we will take a look at what makes Easter so much more than an event, how it changes lives, and how the Easter story is the greatest message Jesus followers have to share, regardless of how others receive it.

### Where Am I Today

- 1) What does the resurrection mean to you? What you believe about Jesus and the resurrection can directly affect how you share your faith, and let's face it, sharing your faith can either be frustrating, fearful, or fulfilling. If you have shared your faith with someone, do you remember why you shared your did?

### Into the Bible

- 2) The Easter story is so much more than an event. It's about a Person who rose from death to life to give everyone the opportunity to place their faith in Him. Read **John 11:21-26**. Who does Jesus say that He is, and what responsibility did He give us?

## FAITH

### WEEK FOUR: ALL THINGS NEW – STUDY GUIDE

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- 3) Jesus used a parable that helps us better understand how people's hearts respond differently to His message. Read **Luke 8:4-15**. What are the four types of soil Jesus refers to, and what's the meaning behind each of them?
  
- 4) Because Jesus died for sin and rose again to defeat death, faith in Him gives us new life and power to proclaim Him to others. It's the greatest message we can share to the people around us. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**. What is Paul telling us that's been entrusted to us? What indication does he give us that sharing our faith is more than words; it's also through our actions?

### How Does This Apply?

- 5) Our response to hearing the good news of Jesus is the difference between our old life and finding new life in Him. All of us have the opportunity to answer the same question Jesus asked Martha. Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Why or why not? If you have faith in Jesus, how has it changed your life?
  
- 6) Jesus talked about four different types of soil to give the analogy of how hearts respond to hearing God's word. The last type of heart was one that heard His word, received it through faith, and allowed it to take root in their life. If we want to produce fruit that yields a harvest, our hearts ought to be cultivated and rooted in God's Word daily. Why is the condition of our heart so important, and how does it affect our response to God's Word? In which area(s) is God challenging you to grow?

## FAITH

### WEEK FOUR: ALL THINGS NEW – STUDY GUIDE

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- 7) There can be many reasons why we don't share our faith. It can range from not sensing the urgency of fleeting time, to not feeling confident enough to share Jesus the people around us. Our mission isn't to save people but to tell others about the One who does save and give them the same opportunity to come to faith in Christ. What are some excuses and reasons we use to not share our faith? How are you getting beyond excuses so you can share your faith, both in words and with your actions?

### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 8) There are many effective ways to share your faith to someone. You can simply share your story of coming to faith in Jesus, use Scripture, or use both. There isn't a magical formula that you can use every time and expect to get the same results. Each person and situation is unique, but God knows and will guide you to say what needs to be said. Knowing where to start and finding key verses in the Bible can be helpful in reaching people for Christ. Read **Romans 1:19-20, 3:21-26, 5:6-10, 6:23** and **10:8-11**. How can knowing these verses be helpful in leading someone to Christ? Can you recognize the clear progression of salvation through these verses?