**“Easter 2025”**

**April 20, 2025**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] Begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]

**Matt. 20:17**

17As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. **18** “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Mana will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. **19** Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

Allow the group time to reflect on the passages. Ask the group: What verse stood out to them and why?

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ important to Christianity?
2. According to Tom, the “What” of Easter is critical – Jesus died and rose again in actual history. The “Why” of Easter is also critical. Based on Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23, what is the “Why” of Easter?
3. Billy Graham was asked by a journalist, “Why should God let you into heaven?” Billy Graham answered, “I will be in heaven for one reason: Many years ago, I put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to make our forgiveness possible and rose again from the dead to give us eternal life.” Ask the people present: Why should God let you into heaven? What is your salvation experience? Do you recall the occasion? (Short testimonies.)
4. Can you share a time that God rescued you?
5. How can the resurrected Christ give you peace, freedom and confidence now and forever knowing that you will face difficult situations in your lives?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins] Ask for personal prayer requests and pray for one another (if group is more than 6 people, pair up to ensure everyone is prayed for). Pray for our Good Friday service and Easter celebration.