



It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

## Easter - 2018

Pastor Keith shared an analogy: Whereas a pineapple was once a rare and expensive delicacy, they are now inexpensive and commonplace. Just as a pineapple's value has depreciated, we must be mindful not to do the same with the cross of Christ. How have you taken the cross for granted? What consequences do we experience when we treat the Easter message as old hat? What practical steps can we take to keep the power and meaning of the cross at the forefront of our lives?

*Matthew 27:33-37; Luke 24:1-12; Galatians 5:1*

In the video (a clip from "The Shack") a father wrestles with the idea that a loving God could allow so much evil to persist, particularly in the recent murder of his young daughter. How did the character Wisdom respond to the father? How does Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection give meaning to the suffering we experience in this life?

*John 16:33; Romans 8:18-25; Romans 8:28*

Discuss the significance of the empty tomb. Why didn't Jesus stay dead and in the grave? What does that mean for us? Contrast the promise we have in Jesus's empty tomb with the empty promises of this world.

*Ephesians 2:4-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:8-10; Romans 12:2*

### What's Next

- If you're having a hard time believing in the goodness of God, find a place where you can be alone with God in prayer. Tell him how you feel, your joy, your doubts and frustrations, hold nothing back. Tell him everything. Don't worry, He can handle it.
- The empty grave tells us that people matter to God. He's not in the grave because He doesn't want to be there. He wants to be ALIVE in us, and for us to know His heart. If you're uncertain how to invite Jesus into your life, ask your life group leader or a pastor for help. Take that step of insane courage!