**“Easter Sunday: Better Than We Had Hoped – Pt1”**

**Mar-30/31, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes, Matt Price, Levi Walker**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you 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]Read **Luke 24:13-24.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passage, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**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. On Easter Sunday, the speaker shared, *“Jesus is risen to meet you right where you are, as you are – right in the middle of disappointment, despair, and doubts.”*
   1. Describe a time or circumstance from your life when Jesus met you in the middle of a disappointment, despair, or doubt.
2. The speaker said, *“What the resurrection of Jesus teaches us is that if evil is winning, the story isn’t over yet.”* 
   1. Are you currently in a season that looks like evil is winning? What are some ways for you to look to Jesus and his help in this season?
   2. Share a time in your life when it looked like evil was winning, but in Jesus you were given the ultimate victory?
3. The speaker taught, *“A deep faith never comes from a shallow understanding of the Scriptures.”*
   1. Why do you think that statement is true or untrue? What are some of the ways your understanding of the Scriptures are deepened?
4. The speaker stated, *“No matter who you are, what you’ve done, where you’ve been – Jesus is risen to restore your hope.”* 
   1. Do you find it easy or difficult to trust in Jesus’ power to restore your hope in your life? Share some of the ways you have experienced God’s restoring grace.

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray.
* Pray for fruitfulness coming out of Easter and the new sermon series, “Better Than We Had Hoped.”
* Pray for those who made first-time commitments or recommitments to Jesus at CA’s Easter services.