

Senior Pastor, Kevin Flannery

The Word of God Continues to Spread and Flourish – Easter: Our Hope is Jesus’

Resurrection - Acts

Big Idea: The resurrection of Jesus is the unshakable hope that proves God keeps His promises, empowers our present, and secures our eternal future.

Winter/Spring Term Week 15 of 19



Opening Prayer & Icebreaker:

Icebreaker: What’s the most hopeful moment you’ve ever experienced after a long time of waiting? Share a story – personal, historical, or something you saw in the news – where hope finally broke through.

Unshakable Hope: The Resurrection Gives Us Hope in God’s Promises (Acts 2:31, Acts 13:30)

Acts 2:31 - *Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.*

Acts 13:30 - *But God raised him from the dead,*

1. Read Acts 2:31 and Acts 13:30. What do these verses reveal about God’s character and His commitment to His Word?
2. Read Acts 13:32-37 where Paul ties the resurrection directly to God’s covenant with David. He quotes Psalm 2 and Isaiah 55 to show that Jesus’ resurrection is the legal proof that the “holy and sure blessings” are now available to all who believe. Pastor Kevin said, “The resurrection is not just a miracle – it’s a legal confirmation that God’s covenant plan is still in effect.” What does that mean to you personally?
3. Like the Emancipation Proclamation, sometimes people live in freedom without knowing it. How might that parallel the way people live without grasping the resurrection?

Unshakable Hope: The Resurrection Gives Us Hope for our Present (Acts 3:15, Acts 13:38)

Acts 3:15 *You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*

Acts 13:38 *“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.*

4. In Acts 3:15, Peter calls Jesus the “author of life.” What does it mean to you that the “author of life” was raised from death?
5. Pastor Kevin reminded us that the same power that raised Jesus from the grave now restores, forgives, and empowers His people and changes how we live now. Where in your life do you need to experience that kind of hope today?
6. How do we as believers live in the tension of being forgiven but still growing in grace? What’s the role of resurrection power in that?

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Unshakable Hope: The Resurrection Gives Us Hope for the Future

Acts 17:31b *He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.*

Acts 26:6 *it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today.*

7. Read Acts 17:31. Paul calls the resurrection “proof” of future judgment and justice. How does that shape your view of heaven, justice, and eternity?
8. In Acts 26:6, Paul says he’s on trial because of his “hope in what God has promised.” Paul stood before kings and governors and said, in effect, I’m not on trial for a crime – I’m on trial because I believe the dead will rise. That’s real hope. A hope strong enough to even face death without fear. How does that inspire you to be bold about your faith?
9. Pastor Kevin shared, “Jesus’ resurrection is not just His victory – it’s our preview. His empty tomb guarantees our eternal life. Judgment is coming, but so is resurrection for those who belong to Him. Although the resurrection doesn’t erase grief, it tells us that death doesn’t get the last word – Jesus does!” Think of someone you’ve lost and the pain of the “empty chair”. What does resurrection hope say about that loss?
10. How can we practically live as Easter people – with boldness, peace, and joy – even in difficult seasons?

Digging Deeper Option (Pre-Group Preparation or Personal Study): *To prepare more deeply before your group meets, or reflect afterwards, on these passages and questions:*

- Read Acts 2:24, 3:15, 13:30, 17:31, and 26:6. What stands out to you about how the apostles consistently frame the resurrection?
- Which of the three “Unshakable Hopes” feels most real to you right now? Which feels hardest to believe?
- Reflect on a promise of God that you’ve seen fulfilled in your life. How did it strengthen your faith?
- Bonus Scripture for Reflection: Psalm 16:10, Isaiah 53:11, Hebrews 6:19
- Consider Paul’s instruction on the importance of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & 12-20.

Closing Prayer: Pray for each person to experience resurrection hope in their lives right now in specific ways.

Faith in Action:

- May 11, **Mothers Day**, prayer for women, kids artwork, treats, and photo booth.
- May 13, **Adult Fellowship Luncheon**, 12 PM, Gym
- May 18, **Last Week of Spring Term Community Groups**
- June 1, **Vision Sunday**, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Sanctuary & **Annual Picnic**, 12:00 PM, Outside in Field
- June 8, **Annual Business Meeting**, 12:00 PM, Sanctuary