

TEACHING GUIDE

**MADE**

**NEW**

***OUTREACH***

# SERIES OUTLINE

## Made New – How Easter Changes Everything

**Write Up:** The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything! The residual effects of Easter echo on to this very day, as men and women place their faith, hope and trust in the risen Savior. The journey of faith begins with confession, but is sustained by commitment. When we are found in Christ, the old ways of living are gone and we are made new.

### **Week 1:** Faith In Christ Makes Us New (Easter)

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10 // 2 Corinthians 5:17 // Romans 10:9

**Write Up:** Easter morning revealed an empty tomb because Jesus had risen from the grave. The two women who first made the discovery had a choice to make. Do they trust the good news or do they ignore the evidence in front of them? The resurrection of Jesus was good news that changed the lives of the disciples and by their impact, the world. We have the same choice to make as the woman did. When we choose faith, we are found “in Christ” and our lives are made new.

**Think:** Jesus’ resurrection from the dead requires me to respond in some kind of way.

**Feel:** My faith in Jesus can take all of the old in my life and make it new. I can be filled with hope.

**Do:** Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Christ from the dead and be saved.

### **Week 2:** Made New: Moving Past Our Past

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:13-14 // Galatians 2:20-21

**Write Up:** One of the greatest obstacles to us growing in our faith is the inability to fully receive the forgiveness of God. Our past mistakes, shortcomings and failures too often hold us back from all that God has for us. God invites us to live with a future focus. Rather than dwelling on the past, we live with eager anticipation for what lies ahead.

**Think:** My past does not define me. God does.

**Feel:** Nothing that has happened in my past can hold me back from God's grace and mercy.

**Do:** Receive the forgiveness of God and lean into the newness of life.

**Week 3: Made New: Part of God's Family**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42-47 // 1 John 1:3

**Write Up:** The early church shared a deep sense of fellowship around their belief in the risen Christ. They supported each other's faith based on their shared love for Jesus and their commitment to living out His teachings. They shared with anyone who had a need and spent time reading the scripture and eating together. This spirit of community was what allowed their numbers to grow each day and for the Gospel to spread far and wide. Today, believers can enjoy the community that comes from faith. Being a part of God's family helps experience all that God has for us.

**Think:** I cannot live out my faith on my own. I need others to stay strong to the end.

**Feel:** I am not alone. Even in my darkest hour, there are people who will be there with me.

**Do:** Take steps to cultivate a community of like-minded believers that you can rely on.

**Week 4: Made New: Faith In Action**

**Scripture:** James 2:14-17 // Luke 7:1-10

**Write Up:** A faith in Jesus that does not result in action is worthless. The Bible seems to suggest that true faith is demonstrated by our deeds. A powerful example of faith in the scriptures is that of the Centurion in Luke 7. This man asks for Jesus to come to His house because he believes Jesus is the only hope of healing for his servant. The centurion's faith was not something that he only held in his heart; it was something he was willing to act upon. Jesus actually comments on how amazed he is by the man's faith.

**Think:** Belief in Jesus is not just an intellectual endeavor; it must move to my heart and change how I live.

**Feel:** Nothing is impossible with God. I can bring anything to him in faith.

**Do:** Dream big for God by stepping out in faith to serve others.

# SERMONWEEK 1

**Made New: Week 1** (Easter)  
Faith In Christ Makes Us New

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10 // 2 Corinthians 5:17 // Romans 10:9

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**Think:** Jesus’ resurrection from the dead requires me to respond in some kind of way.

**Feel:** My faith in Jesus can take all of the old in my life and make it new. I can be filled with hope.

**Do:** Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Christ from the dead and be saved.

## **Sermon:**

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! It is Easter Sunday today and it is an honor to gather with you for such a special occasion. Churches all over the world will come together to remember and celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today we begin a brand-new sermon series called Made New. The effects of the resurrection have reverberated throughout history. Jesus’ defeat of sin and death has changed everything. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us as well. It changes us. It renews us. It breathes fresh life into us. The key to this transformative power is our faith. New life is unlocked as we place our faith, hope, and trust in the work of Christ. But, in order for there to be new life, there had to first be a death.

**STORY:** Years ago, I was hiking in the Cascade Mountains in Oregon with a group of people. It took us five days to cover nearly 20 miles of terrain. We saw so much beauty as we journeyed from snow covered mountain tops to lush green valleys. There was a section of trail that we came upon, however, that was different from the rest. It was charred and black. A local hiker told us that a year ago a large forest fire ravaged the area. It burned nearly 2,000 acres of forest. Everywhere we looked, all you could see was a burned landscape. What was so surprising was that if you looked closely, you could see

little spots of green here and there, shooting up from the scorched ground. Oddly enough, the burned timber and underbrush had created a perfect environment for growth, and from the ashes, new life was being born. *(This opening story needs to illustrate how it is not uncommon for life to be brought forth from death and how what looks like the end can oftentimes be just the beginning. This is the story of Easter.)*

Easter morning began with ashes. The Messiah was dead. Jesus had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had been betrayed by one of his own friends. He was beaten. After an unfair trial, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion and hung between two thieves. Within hours, Jesus breathed his last and died. And with him, died the hopes and dreams of those who had followed him. They believed he was the one who would usher in the Kingdom of God and make all things right, but now they mourned the loss of their friend. Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and laid inside of a cold, dark tomb. It seemed like the end. It felt so final.

But, no one could see that it was just the beginning.

Three days went by. Some of the disciples had returned to their old ways of life. Any hope they had had was buried behind a massive stone that was rolled to cover the entrance to the tomb where Jesus lay. But then Sunday came.

### **READ Matthew 28:1-8**

The Bible tells us that at dawn two women named Mary traveled to Jesus' grave. Other places in the scriptures tell us these women had come to anoint his body for burial. Suddenly a violent earthquake shook the ground as an angel of the Lord appeared and rolled the stone away from the tomb entrance. The appearance of these angels and their clothing was shocking, like lightning and bright white. The guards who were watching over the grave were terrified, as were the women.

But the angel spoke tenderly to them. He spoke a word of comfort that is pronounced over people nearly 365 times throughout the scriptures. He said, "Do not be afraid". Easter is not a time for fear, but of joy. Though the women had come to care for Jesus' lifeless body, he was not there. The tomb was empty. He had risen! The women ran off to find the other disciples, no longer filled with fear, but filled with joy.

### **POINT #1 – EASTER CONFRONTS OUR FEARS AND OFFERS US JOY**

We live in a world where it is easy to find ourselves in a very similar place to these women in the story. Any given Sunday, there are people all across the world who come to church expecting to find a lifeless Jesus. Many are filled with anxiety and fear: fearful that their lives will never change, that their circumstances won't change, that their marriage cannot be rescued, that their diagnosis is a forgone conclusion. For too many of us, our lives are dominated by anxiety and fear.

Perhaps this morning the first thing you need to hear is the message of the angel at the empty tomb. “Do not be afraid”.

Easter confronts our fears. The empty tomb reveals the mighty power of God that was not just a reality for Jesus then, but a reality for us today.

Author and speaker, Beth Moore, says it so well... “The power of the resurrection means that nothing but the tomb is meant to be empty.”

Easter is a source of great joy for Christians. We are filled with joy because resurrection power is able to make everything new. The empty tomb means your past can be made new. The empty tomb means your hope for the future can be made new. The empty tomb means your life can be made new. Joy is a byproduct of hope, hope that if Jesus indeed has risen from the grave, then through our belief in him, there is nothing that is impossible for us either.

**STORY:** A bright young girl of fifteen was suddenly cast upon a bed of suffering, completely paralyzed on one side and nearly blind. She heard the family doctor say to her parents as they stood by the bedside: “She has seen her best days, poor child!” “No, doctor,” she exclaimed, “my best days are yet to come, when I shall see the King in His beauty.” That is our hope. Christ rose from the dead to give us a pledge of our own rising. The resurrection is the great antidote for fear of death. Nothing else can take its place. Riches, genius, worldly pleasures or pursuits... (*Anecdotes, Incidents, and Illustrations by D.L. Moody*)

No matter where you find yourself today, the empty tomb pushes back against our fear and reminds us that the best is yet to come because Jesus Christ is alive!