



Discussion Guide: Why Easter Changes Everything **Easter Sunday | April 5, 2026** **New River Church**

Icebreaker

Think about a time in your life when you genuinely needed a fresh start in a relationship, a job, a habit, or a season of life. What made starting over feel scary, and what made it feel hopeful?

Big Idea

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not the end of a story. It's the beginning of yours. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus ransomed us from fear, failure, and the weight of everything we've done wrong, and offers us something extraordinary: a living hope that is fully alive on a Tuesday afternoon just as much as on Easter Sunday morning. Resurrection power is not a distant religious concept. It is available to every one of us right now, and it changes everything.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Keith opened with the scene from *Les Misérables* where the bishop ransoms Jean Valjean, handing him back the silver and even the candlesticks, and says, "I bought your soul. I've ransomed you from fear and hatred." How does that image land for you as a picture of what Jesus has done? What part of your life feels most like it still needs to be ransomed?
2. Pastor Keith pointed to Peter, whose greatest failure (denying Jesus three times) became the place from which he later wrote about living hope with power and authority. How does Peter's story speak to where you are right now? Is there a failure or a broken season in your life that you haven't let God redeem yet?
3. Pastor Keith described the resurrection as a "do over," like calling it in the middle of a cul-de-sac game when an adult's car rolls through and messes everything up. Where in your life right now do you most need that kind of fresh start? What would it actually mean to you to receive it today, not just believe it in the abstract?
4. Pastor Keith described living hope as hope that is fully alive at 4 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon, not dependent on a church service, a good week, or any circumstance going right. He asked, "Where is your hope?" What are the small hopes you most commonly put your weight on, and how have they let you down?
5. Pastor Keith read from 2 Timothy 3 and talked about the difference between having a form of godliness (looking good, doing right, being a decent person) and actually having the resurrection power of God alive in you. Where in your life are you most tempted to settle for the form without the power?
6. Pastor Keith shared a moment from his own week, sitting with his wife, making an honest list of all the heavy things pressing on them, and just beginning to name each one before God. Not a superhero moment, just open hands and a confession of need. What

would it look like for you to bring the specific heavy things in your life to God that way this week?

7. Pastor Keith said this: “What we were always meant to have, we were always meant to have with God. Sin stole it. Jesus came and gave it back to us.” How does that framing change the way you think about the Christian life, not as something you’re trying to earn or perform, but something that has been restored and given back to you?

Closing Reflection

Pastor Keith closed with a simple, direct question: “Will you get it? Will you receive it?” What is one thing you are being invited to open your hands and receive this week, whether that’s hope, rest, a fresh start, forgiveness, or simply the presence of a God who is already with you?