

1. One Astonishing Day! – Mark 16:6—“He has risen! He is not here!” (Can you even imagine the impact of hearing that? Let’s watch one attempt to capture it as Mary Magdalene sees Jesus at the empty tomb from the gospel of John account)
2. **VIDEO** (I had chill bumps even preparing this lesson—just thinking about it)
3. The Resurrection Changed Everything
 - a. From defeat to triumph
 - b. From desolation to salvation
 - c. From denial to empowerment
 - d. From despair to hope
 - e. From death to live (In that moment when Christ arose—nothing remained the same. His disciples would go from bewildered to bestowed—dynamic forces for the kingdom. As the Spirit led, they took the Good News everywhere—literally changing an empire. The resurrection fueled them; it was the core of their message. Still is)
4. The Resurrection is the Heart of the Gospel (that is why Paul said this) I Corinthians 15:14 (Certainly the cross is powerful—a visual of God’s love and the price he paid for our sins, but without the resurrection; without God defeating death and the grave—the gospel; our message would not be good at all! The good news is that he arose after that cross—providing transformational energy which allows us to go from bewildered to bestowed—fueling us to become the force God desires)
5. (Which is then why Paul said these words—a prayer for the Ephesian Christians to fully embrace the life-changing power of the resurrection) Ephesians 1:18-20; also 3:20-21
6. The Resurrection Changes Us (It empowers; it enables; it delivers the unmistakable grace of God which energizes our faith to the point of living fully and incredibly for God—no longer buying into; being limited by defeatism; by worldly constrains. It enables us not to give up in despair; to see around obstacles; and to live by faith, not by sight. Through it we can fully embrace Spirit-filled lives and be people brimming with hope. It changes how we see our world; each other; possessions; everything! It continues to be astonishing producing astonishing results—**Acts 4:13: When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus**)
7. Are We Astonishing? (That is, have we fully embraced the resurrection of Christ and the changes it brings? Have we opened up our eyes to it and are we allowing God to do within us more than we can imagine through this power? This is what that first Easter is all about! It gives us a new life—**Romans 6:4**—our own death, burial and resurrection! Why do we hold back and hold on to things that defeat us; that undermine the resurrection work God wants to accomplish within us; that robs us of the certain gift of God’s hope? We have the resurrection power waiting. **SONG LYRICS**. Three days later changed everything! Is it changing us—that is the real question we must ask as we celebrate Easter)