

Introduction:

1. If you could go back in time and witness any historical event, which one would you choose? Why?
2. What is the most awesome display of power you have ever seen?

Understanding:

3. Read what Matthew 24:27 says about the prospects for International peace. What is the remedy for the pessimistic tone of this verse?
4. John 4:9 talks about racial tensions. How does Jesus handle it? How does that apply to how you deal with racial tensions?
5. How might you answer a skeptic who argued that Jesus didn't really rise from the dead?
6. Do you get into political arguments because you KNOW the right policies will change everything? Read Philippians 3:20. Does this encourage you to turn down your volume a little bit? Why or why not?
7. Read John 14:27. What are the opposites of peace here? How does Christ's claim here give you insight into the reason you struggle with finding peace?
8. CS Lewis said about Christianity "But, in fact, it is not the sort of thing anyone would have made up. It has just that queer twist about it that real things have."
As you reflect on today's passage and the passages, in the Give It Up series, give some specific incidents which would NOT be there if someone were just making things up?
- 9-11. The refrain in "Jesus Paid It All" is a wonderful summary of Christ paying the penalty and washing us of our sin:
"Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

Read Isaiah 1:18, 1 Peter 1:18-19, and Revelation 1:5-6.

9. How does each of these verses explain our being freed from sin?
10. How is the resurrection described?
11. What are some of the benefits we receive?
12. Speaking of Shalom and Peace, read Isaiah 9:6. Can you explain the wonderful connection between Christmas and the resurrected Jesus that you see here?

Application:

13. Pray for the people who will be getting baptized. Encourage them in the significance of their step. And reflect on the significance of your OWN baptism.
14. Pray for those who said yes and believed in Christ on Easter, that the word of Christ would find fertile soil in them and they would have fruitful growth in Christ. And be a personal encouragement to any of these new believers you know or meet.