

Introduction:

1. What did you find to be the most awesome treat when you were a kid?
2. In which ways do you most experience solidarity with Christians around the world?

Understanding:

3. Today's passage says they were "afraid yet filled with joy." Read Psalm 47:1-4. First note that through the resurrected Jesus we become part of the inheritance! Look at verse 2. Some translations say God is "awesome" and others say "to be feared". Are these two contradictory? Explain.
4. Pastor Dave talked about how we have both a rational and spiritual side. How do these two sides combine in your own faith in Jesus Christ?
5. Tim Keller said, "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me". Examine and explain this quote as it applies for you in the light of today's sermon and Easter.
6. Philippians 2 is describing our salvation in Jesus. Read verses 12 and 13. Your Bible version may have either "pleasure" or "purpose" at the end of verse 13. What does the fact that both words are OK translations tell you about our attitude as we walk out our salvation?
7. What is the difference between how an unbeliever and a Christian would answer this question: "Does Jesus overlook our sin?" In the light of Easter, what difference does it make to you personally?
8. Read Ephesians 1:19-23. This talks about God's power. What are the wonderful results of the Resurrection? Describe how these powerful statements affect you personally as a Christian in 2016.
9. Even though the Bible does not use the word "trinity" it's an important part of our Christian lives. Where does the trinity show up in today's passage and how does it connect to Pastor Dave's remark that God expects us to take action?

Application:

10. Have you ever felt like Peter after his betrayal? Maybe you've made a mess out of marriage. Or you've failed as a parent. Or you've failed as a student and disappointed your parents. Or you've got some secret addiction to alcohol or food or porn or something else. And maybe you function okay on the surface, but on some level you feel like a failure and a loser, and you're pretty sure God feels the same way about you. This awareness of our own darkness and our own failure—can actually be a great gift. Because it humbles us and opens us to our need for God's grace. In which area do you need God's grace? Pray to receive it!
11. How does Jesus' warm, loving attitude—even toward the disciples who deserted him—give you comfort?