



Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
Easter: 270305

Stones

Based on Matthew 28 v 1-10

Leaders' Guidance: Try to deal with the first three questions quite quickly (say 8 minutes) to allow time for thoughtful answers to question 4, which is really the main focus of the group activity.

There is a stone for each group that can be a focus of meditation, if time allows, or if Q4 does not flow easily.

We cannot move to Easter Day before we have experienced the Good Friday crucifixion.

Sometimes we try to move from Palm Sunday to Easter Day without going through the experience of Good Friday. We need to remind ourselves of the sorrow and desolation of the crucifixion before we can truly celebrate the joy of the risen Saviour.

We have tried to remind ourselves of Good Friday at the start of today's service. Everything had come to an end. The stone sealing the tomb signified that barrier. Jesus was dead and had been taken away from all his friends and followers.

- 1 Consider the significance of the stone being rolled away from the tomb. An enormous physical barrier, even guarded by soldiers, miraculously rolled aside!
What was the significance of the moving of the stone? To show the power of God and to remove the barrier between life and death?
- 2 Was it necessary for the stone to be moved in order for the resurrection to take place?

Key to Leaders' Notes

Leader to read

Questions

*So that we can all share in the promise of eternal life. The disciples needed to see the risen Jesus in order to help them believe this unprecedented event. They would then realise it was just as Jesus said it would be.
'The stone had been rolled away - not to let Jesus out but to let us in'.*

- 3 **The crucifixion must have seemed like the end, the biggest stumbling block imaginable to the followers of Jesus.**

But was it really a stumbling block or a building block, a foundation stone ... ?

It was necessary for the Christian faith to have a beginning. A foundation for the Christian Church.

- 4 Stones have many analogies in life - we can use the picture of stones to help us understand some aspects of our Christian journey.

They can be stones to trip over, or stones creating a barrier. Or they can have positive images, such as:

- stones to build with (Christ the cornerstone)
- flagstones - to make a path
- milestones - marking important places on the journey
- cairns - marking the path ahead
- stepping stones - across difficult terrain

Are there stones in our Christian lives that make us stumble or trip and fall?

Must these always remain stumbling stones or could they become building blocks in our lives?

Invite personal examples that deal with both questions together to bring out the positive way forward for each of us as individuals. Or personal examples where the above images have been, or are, helpful.

Meditation - *on the above list of images if time allows.*

Daffodils - *Once the music starts, bring your group to a close and invite group members to each take a daffodil to place it at the foot of the cross (in vases) as a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.*

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