

Group Study – Easter Sunday
Come and see – go and tell
21 April 2019 – John Malcolm
Bible Reading Matthew 28:1-15

What do you like best about Easter?

Do you have any family traditions at Easter?

Easter Sunday is a day of joy, but how do you cope with the sadness of Good Friday?

Read Deuteronomy 21:22–23

What do you think was going through the minds of Jesus disciples late on Good Friday or Easter Saturday?

Why would the people of Jerusalem have considered Jesus a failed or false messiah?

What do these verses teach us about Jewish burial customs, even for criminals?

Why was it important for the dead (unclean bodies) to be buried and not just to lie on the land?

Part of the normal Jewish custom for burial was a seven-day period of mourning where people would enter the tomb or stand at the tomb entrance to pray. In Jesus day, burial, even for a criminal was considered a religious duty, although the criminal would not be buried with honour in a family tomb. (*Jesus the final days*, Craig A Evans 2009)

Read Luke 23:50–24:1

What do we know about Joseph's character and status?

Why would Joseph ask permission to bury Jesus?

Why could Jesus' body not be prepared that evening?

How did the women know where Jesus was buried?

Read Matthew 27.62-66

What did the Jewish leaders fear about Jesus' body?

How was the tomb secured?

Read Matthew 28.1-7

Why do you think the women set off so early?

What stands out to you about the role of the angel?

What was the invitation and command of the angel?

Why do you think there was urgency in the command of the angel?

Read John 1:36–39 & Matthew 28:19–20.

Looking at these verses what reasons might the minister have for saying, *Come see – Go tell are bookends of Jesus' ministry.*

Why is Jesus invitation to the disciples, come and see, more than an invitation to look at where he was staying?

From your knowledge of the gospels, can you recall times when come see or go tell are seen as a pattern in the New Testament?

Thinking of the mission and ministries at Greyfriars which ministries/events help people to *Come and See* and which encourage people to *Go and Tell*?

Which of these ministries/events work well as a bridge between the church and the community?

The minister said, *Faith sharing is relational.* Andrew invited his brother Peter. Philip invited his friend Nathaniel. The Samaritan woman invited the people in the town where she lived. *Spiritual conversations take place in a relationship, sometimes with old friends and sometimes with recent acquaintances.*

Do you think speaking about Jesus/faith is easier with a friend or a stranger? Share some of your reasons for this view?

Why is it important to genuinely *listen and care* if you want the person you are speaking with to be *open and share* meaningful conversation with you?

If time and technology allow, watch the video of Jim Denison discussing the question *How can I share my faith with others* (length 10 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygm2I7BP8HM>

For personal reflection:

What helps you *come and see – go and tell*?

How does the story of the resurrection motivate you to invite people to come and see or to go and tell?