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| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: In the weekend just gone, we celebrated Easter in a very unique way. That though doesn’t change the reality or importance of the Easter message. On both Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we continued our way through the gospel of John picking up important points in the story of the cross and the empty tomb.  We saw that an important step in the journey to the cross was the raising of Lazarus. He was a living witness to the power of Jesus and because of that the Jewish religious leaders wanted him dead. They got their wish just over a week later in the midst of the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem.  In the lead up to Jesus’ crucifixion, we came across two men who failed to recognise Jesus for who he was. One was Caiaphas the high priest and the other Pilate the head of state. Both of these men could not and would not believe that Jesus was the messiah, the son of God.  With the judgement passed, Jesus is sent off to die. Alongside two prisoners, he is nailed to a cross, in a matter of hours he is dead. With his body hanging there, lifeless, a soldier pierced his side as proof, with water and blood spilling out. He is taken down and placed in an empty and unused tomb.  His followers are left alone and afraid, what had just happened? On the day after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene goes to check where Jesus was left, only to find the tomb empty. She goes and tells the others, who run to see themselves.  Then Jesus appears, alive but different. He is resurrected but not simply brought back to life. He is changed forever, and one day we will be too. |  JOhn’s Gospel |  | |  | | --- | | The Epic of easter Part 1&2  1. How did you celebrate this Easter differently? 2. Why did Caiaphas and the other religious leaders want Jesus dead so badly? (See John 11:47-53) 3. What do you think of Caiaphas’ prophecy in 11: 51-52? 4. When Jesus is arrested, he is interrogated about his disciples and his teaching? What is his answer? (See: 18:19-23) 5. Why does Pilate eventually decide to have Jesus killed? (See 19:12-19) 6. Both Caiaphas and Pilate fail to recognise Jesus for who he is. What were their reasons? 7. Why did Jesus have to die? How would you explain your answer using the Bible? (i.e. what verses?) 8. What is the experience of those first witnesses to the empty tomb? (See 20:1-10) 9. Why is the stone rolled away? Remember Jesus can walk through locked doors and solid walls. 10. Why is belief in the resurrection so difficult? (See 20:24-25) 11. What is the point of the Epic of Easter? (See 20:30-31) | |