for Personal Study and Small Groups 4/20/14

Choosing Which Story to Believe Matt. 27.57-28.15

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013/2014 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

Announcements: Child Dedication Sunday, May 11, 2014

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: on calling us to believe in the resurrection of Jesus and to persevere in faithfulness in dark times.

Think of what "Black Saturday" must have been lie for the disciples. What would you imagine was most prominent in their minds?

Read 27.57-61. Look up the parallel passages about Joseph in the other gospels. Compile a description of him. How is Joseph an example of a faithful disciple? How does he encourage you?

Read 27.62-66 Why do you think it was so vital for the leaders to squelch any rumors of a resurrection? How would 1 Cor. 15.12-20 lend credence to their concern? What does it reveal about the importance of Christ's resurrection?

Read 28.1-15. What is the significance of Jesus' appearing first to these women seven before his 11 disciples? And what do you learn from the message the angel and Jesus himself gives to the women?

Make a list of what difference the resurrection makes. Connect each point to a specific scripture if you can. Another option would be to read 1 Cor. 15 together and compile a list from that passage.

As you celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God, what are you most thankful for? How do you sense God wants you to apply it to your life?