

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Discuss

1. Why is it challenging to live with Easter hope all year long? What things take away our hope? Why do we easily forget the resurrection?
2. What do you think it would have been like to be a slave in Egypt? What would your outlook on life have been? What would you have been living for?
3. Can you relate to the Israelites being exiled in Babylon? Have you ever felt "far from home," either literally or figuratively? Can you relate to the feeling of a dream dying?
4. How has death affected you over the course of your life? Have you ever experienced the death of a close friend, loved one, or hero? How did the death of someone close to you make you feel?
5. In what ways were slavery in Egypt, exile in Babylon, and the death of Jesus all similar experiences for those who lived through them? What "died" in each of these events? How did God restore hope in each?
6. Which of the events that we talked about this week--rescue from slavery, restoration from exile or resurrection from the dead--do you identify most closely with? Which of these events gives you the most hope?
7. Where do you need an image of hope most right now? What does it mean for you to live in the aftermath of Easter?

