

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

**Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017**

### **Jesus Holds the Keys**

Pastor Michael O'Connor

#### **Scripture—**

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Revelation 1:17-18*

#### **Main Idea—Since Jesus Holds the Keys to Death and Hades, We Can Trust Him to Hold the Keys for Us and What We Face**

**Reviews and Ratings—**What kinds do we have on the fact that Jesus is alive?

#### **Evaluating the Resurrection of Jesus—**

- Eyewitness Accounts—He had flesh and blood, He ate, He appeared to more than 500 at one time
- Historical Perspective—throughout history, His followers have made a decisive and positive impact on both body and soul
- Current Day Testimonies—He is changing lives on Long Island today

**If Jesus is not alive—**we need to remove all manner of texts from our Bible

#### **Evaluating the afterlife—**Jesus is the only credible reviewer

- He is God
- He lives forever and ever
- He holds the keys

#### **Application—**

- What evidence (eyewitness accounts, historical perspectives or current day testimonies had the greatest impact on your faith walk ethos point on your life?
- What current day problem are you trusting Jesus to hold the key to?

## 4 WAYS AN APPRENTICE CAN HELP WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP

By Peter Krol

**Help with logistics.** As you give your apprentices some responsibility for the group, they can feel more ownership and demonstrate faithfulness. And as they show faithfulness in small things, you can entrust even greater things to them. Helping with logistics may involve recruiting, hosting, communicating, advertising, bringing a snack, or planning a group activity.

**Help with shepherding.** Your goal in training a new leader should ultimately be to raise up a new shepherd of God's people. So apprentices learn much by learning to help you shepherd people. Apprentices can help shepherd people during the meeting: Asking good questions, encouraging quiet people to speak, or following up with prayer requests from previous meetings. They can also help shepherd people between meetings: Calling folks in the group, connecting with them outside of group time.

**Help with preparation.** Include your apprentice in your meeting preparation. Though you could get it done faster by yourself, apprentices won't learn unless you let them in. Meet with them before the meeting to go over the passage to be discussed. Let them help you shape the application time.

**Help with evaluation.** After the meeting, ask your apprentice how it went. How clear was the topic? What was helpful or unhelpful? How were people responding? What was good? What could be better? What could we do to follow up on things that were said?

When leading a group, it's great to have some help from an apprentice. This means we have to ask for help. So the main idea is to give apprentices real responsibility.

*Having an apprentice sounds good, right? Why not pray about who in your group could be your apprentice? --Cindy*