

STAY CONNECTED!

Looking for a Life Group or just want to keep up to date with the latest on Every Nation Brisbane's events or podcasts?

Download the free app and stay connected.
Available on the *Apple App Store* and *Google Play*.



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

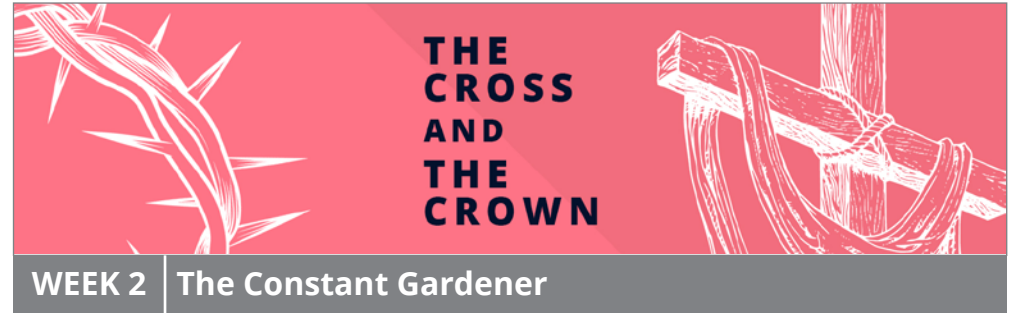
© 2021 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

www.enbrisbane.org



PRAYER

Christ, our passover, is sacrificed for us; therefore, let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once, but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ is risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death; by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Cor. 15:20.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, Easter Sunday Prayer)

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Is there something that no longer exists or is very rare that you would like to see brought back to life?

WORD

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

[JOHN 20:11-23](#)

"On the third day the friends of Christ coming at day-break to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of a gardener, God walked again in the garden, not in the cool of the evening, but in the dawn."

—G.K. Chesterton

When we see God in the beginning creating humanity for relationship, the setting is a beautifully created garden ([Genesis 2:8-17](#)). When we observe the first garden in the Bible, we notice some of the main factors we see in the other gardens mentioned in scripture (see the Shulemite garden in Song of Solomon) that also correlate to spiritual truths that we can apply in our walk as people who pursue God.

THE FIRST GARDEN ([Genesis 2-3](#))

It must have been beautiful as every tree was 'pleasant to the sight'. They were irrigated by the river - the necessity of life-giving water (Jesus is described as the Water of Life in [John 4:15](#)). They were productive - trees were 'good for food'. They required tending and working. Possibly the garden was enclosed - sadly we know this from when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God drove them out of Eden and a Cherubim was placed in the way to keep them from re-entering. Fig trees grew there - Adam and Eve made the first clothing from fig leaves sewn together ([Genesis 3:7](#)). The planting was dense enough to provide seclusion, as we see when Adam and Eve hid from the Lord God ([Genesis 3:9](#)).

Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection re-establishes our relationship with God by paying the ransom for us in his sacrifice, bringing us back to a place of meeting with God once again. Jesus is alive indeed, and desires to walk with us, and grant us life with him evermore!

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. Are you much of a garden person? If you aren't, why not? If you are, what do you like to do most in a garden?
2. The first garden was a meeting place for God to meet in intimacy and friendship with humanity. Jesus re-establishes our relationship with God by paying the ransom for us in his sacrifice, bringing us back to a place of meeting with God once again. How does this affect your everyday life, knowing that this price has been paid for you to meet with him?
3. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how do you rate your frequency in tending the "garden" of the meeting place you can have with God? Why have you rated yourself this way?
4. What does it mean for you to know that Jesus is alive?
5. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, and you would like to follow him, would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.