Connect Study—Happy, Holy and Heavenly Easter

Lk 24:6-7 “He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Manmust be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. It split our calendar in half to A.D. and B.C. Jesus never wrote a book yet there are more books written about him than any other subject. He never composed a single song yet there is more music written about him than any other subject. He never travelled more than 100 miles from his birthplace yet his followers can be found in every nook and cranny of the planet. And why is this? The answer is the Good News –that Jesus came and died for us and that he was resurrected again from the dead.

Happy Easter

It’s a Happy Easter because Jesus took our place of punishment. Sin separated us from God but Jesus took our place and suffered the punishment that we should have suffered. We are therefore free and forgiven. We no longer need to fear death and we have the assurance that we are loved unconditionally.

Holy Easter.

It’s a Holy Easter because He has given us the Holy Spirit. Jesus loves us because we are his creation but it’s because of this love that he refuses to leave us that way we are. He wants us to become more like Him. He gave us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and empower us so that we will be transformed into His image. Eph 1:13 says “When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”. This is not just a branding but an infilling. The Holy Spirit wants to fill our lives.

Heavenly Easter.

It’s a heavenly Easter because we have a heavenly destiny. He has a greater purpose for our lives. If Jesus indeed rose from the dead and that he is alive, how would that impact the way we live? Many of us are “Functional Atheists”, we claim we are Christ’s followers but we deny his reality by the way we live.

Discussion questions:

1. If you were questioned about the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, what would be your defence? (Optional question)
2. What does Easter mean to you?
3. What does it mean to have the Holy Spirit as an active partner in your life in terms of being:

* A parent
* A worker
* A spouse

1. What do you think is God’s higher purpose for your life?
2. How would you define a “Functional Atheist” in terms of his/her response to crisis, his priorities, the way he manages his finance and his relationships with others? (spouse, parents, girlfriend/boyfriend, children, leaders, etc.)