

# It was a dark and stormy night...

## Four Friends

### The darkness

1. Of loss.
2. Of regret.
3. Of injustice.
4. Of doubt.

### The darkness overcome

1. We will see friends and loved ones again.
2. We will live again ourselves.
3. We can be forgiven for our sins.
4. We can have our relationships restored.
5. Injustice has been cared for.
6. Justice will ultimately prevail.
7. Jesus is not threatened by our doubts.
8. Jesus offers assurance for our faith.

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### storylines prompt:

Choose one of the four characters and write an account of their experience in your own words. Then write your own personal account of your Easter experience.



## resource guide

### First Five / Final Five:

⇒ Take the first five minutes of each day to READ God's Word, and the final five minutes of your day to REFLECT on God's Work in your life.

### The Big Idea:

- In your own words, how would you summarize the main idea of the message?

### From the Message:

- With which of the characters mentioned do you most relate? How have you struggled with a similar darkness? What did you do?
- How has the reality of Easter given you encouragement in your life?

### From the Passage:

- John wraps up his gospel in chapter 20 with the story of Thomas. (Chapter 21 is an epilogue that gives us important information on the restitution of Peter.) Why do you think John ended with this story? See John 20:31.

### Think it through / Talk it over:

- Four areas of potential inner darkness were mentioned—what other areas might you add? How could the reality of the resurrection provide help in those situations?
- The followers of Jesus experienced a few days of darkness, but often we experience more extended times of 'soul darkness' in our lives. Have you had that experience? How did you cope?
- Jesus actually appeared to more than 500 people after his resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:5-8). Who initiated those encounters? When have you personally experienced Jesus?
- How has your story been most impacted by the Easter story?

### Take a Step:

⇒ Truth transforms us only as we take action. What is that one step you need to take?