

Small Group Guide: Believers Raised (Easter - Day 7)

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for the resurrection of Jesus and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to receive truth.

Introduction

This week we've journeyed through Holy Week together, and today we celebrate the resurrection —the cornerstone of our faith. John wrote his Gospel so that we might believe Jesus is the Christ and have life in His name. Today we explore what it means to be believers raised with Christ.

Key Scripture

John 20:30-31 "Many other signs Jesus performed in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. But these things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name."

Key Takeaways

1. **John was an eyewitness** who carefully selected what to record so that others might believe and receive eternal life.
2. **Eternal life is bodily resurrection** - just as Jesus physically rose from the dead, believers will also be raised bodily to live forever under Christ's rule.
3. **The resurrection changes everything** - death's curse is temporary, but life in Christ is eternal.
4. **Believers have no reason to fear death** - suffering in this life is not the end of the story; resurrection is.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Why do you think John emphasized that he was an eyewitness to Jesus' words and works? How does this strengthen our faith today?
2. What does it mean that John "carefully chose" what to include in his Gospel? What does this tell us about the purpose of Scripture?
3. How would you explain "eternal life" to someone based on this teaching? How is it different from common cultural understandings of the afterlife?

Going Deeper

4. The video states that "eternal life cannot be understood apart from Jesus' resurrection from the dead." Why is the physical resurrection so crucial to our faith?
5. How does believing in bodily resurrection (not just spiritual existence) change the way we view:
 - Our physical bodies now?
 - Creation and the physical world?
 - Our work and daily activities?
6. What does it mean practically that "death's curse is temporary, but life is eternal"? How should this truth affect our daily lives?

Group Activity Option

Testimony Time: Take turns sharing how the resurrection of Jesus has personally impacted your life. How has believing in the risen Christ changed you? What difference does it make knowing you will be raised?

Closing Reflection

Read together: "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

Final Question: How does knowing that the same Spirit who raised Jesus lives in you change how you'll live this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for:

- The eyewitness testimony of the apostles
- The resurrection of Jesus
- The promise of our own resurrection
- The power to live fearlessly in light of eternal life
- Opportunities to share this hope with others

He is risen! He is risen indeed!