

Life Group Lesson

40 Days with the Risen Christ • Week of May 15

Introduction

What is your most memorable meal? What made it special? Was it the guests or family members around the table, perhaps loved ones who are no longer here? Maybe it was the love and planning that went into the menu; not only can you still smell the aromas and taste the flavors, but you savor the memory of the hard work and precious hands that prepared it. Things are revealed in a meal. Grace is at the table in a meal because someone worked hard to provide the food set before you. Eating together, sharing covenant meals are important across the pages of Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments record many times the LORD eats with people (for example, see Genesis 18:1-10, Exodus 24:1-11, John 6:1-15, John 12:1-11, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 24:28-31).

Jesus shows up when we welcome Him to our table. We “Say Grace” to bless the meal because whether or not we realize it, grace is central to every part of our lives. God is gracious to share Himself with us. His love is seen in creation, a hug, smile, the beauty and unmatched wonder of earth, sky and sea which He created (Isaiah 45:12,18 Revelation 10:6). The greatest expression was when “The Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son” (John 1:14). God created everything through Christ and for Christ (see John 1:3, Revelation 4:11). And the LORD shows His work (artistry) to demonstrate the deep love He has for us. Similarly, special meals (like covenant meals) are an expression of grace. Those who love to cook, love to cook for those they love. God loves us and has graciously provided salvation through Christ.

Background

In John, chapter twenty-one, the risen Jesus surprises the disciples again. This time it’s early morning, the disciples, several of them fishermen by trade, were only about 100 yards out in the Sea of Galilee. They had been hard at work all night and caught nothing. Someone from the shoreline calls out: “Fellows, have you caught any fish?” “No” they reply. “Throw

out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” They follow the advice called out by the stranger on the shore, and catch so many fish they can hardly haul in the net. Suddenly, John (the Beloved disciple) realizes it’s no stranger. He says to Peter: “It’s the Lord!” Peter puts on his tunic, jumps in the sea, and swims to shore (John 21:5-7). One can only imagine the laughter and joyful exchange between a soaking-wet fisherman and his risen Lord. Breakfast is ready! Jesus has broiled fish over a charcoal fire and some bread waiting for them all.

Reading the Text

Read John 21:1-14

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

In Closing

A professional relationship with Jesus is different than a personal relationship with Jesus. The church is not a business with a steeple on top of the building. The church is the living bride of Christ through whom Christ’s love and passion for the world is expressed. All are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Grace is free. The meal (salvation) has already been provided through Christ’s death and resurrection. But understand, discipleship will cost you. Revelation, chapter nineteen says: “... ‘Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to Him. For the time has come for the

wedding feast of the Lamb, and His bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.’ For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people” (Revelation 19:7-8). Remember Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount? He said, like a lamp placed on a stand “... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:16).

Living right is not for our glory, but God’s! When the watching world sees followers of Christ remaining faithful no matter the challenges of life, people take notice. Like all of us, Peter was not a perfect man, but his relationship with Jesus was personal. The Lord forgave Peter for denying Him; Peter knew it and was deeply grateful. Peter wanted to be where Jesus was. Had Peter’s relationship with the Lord only been professional, he would have never jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus. Do you know ‘about’ Jesus? Or do you know Jesus personally and intimately? Invite Him into your heart now! He is your Redeemer, Savior, Friend – the only One who took your place on the cross – He has loved you from before the day you were born. He is Lord of your days, Lord of the Ages

40 DAYS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

Text: John 21:1-14

PLAIN TRUTH:

Grace is _____ but discipleship will
_____ you.

What is revealed in the meal?

A. Grace is _____: The meal is _____.

B. Discipleship will _____ you.

So why do more people not engage in EASTER LIVING?

A. Most general Christians have a _____ relationship with Jesus and not a _____ relationship.

B. They don’t understand the miracle and magnitude of Salvation in Jesus, as Hell is a _____, yet we were made for _____!

One Year Bible Readings

May 15: 1 Samuel 17:1-18:4, John 8:21-30, Psalm 111:1-10, Proverbs 15:11

May 16: 1 Samuel 18:5-19:24, John 8:31-59, Psalm 112:1-10, Proverbs 15:12-14

May 17: 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, John 9:1-41, Psalm 113:1-114:8, Proverbs 15:15-17

May 18: 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, John 10:1-21, Psalm 115:1-18, Proverbs 15:18-19

May 19: 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, John 10:22-42, Psalm 116:1-19, Proverbs 15:20-21

May 20: 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25, John 11:1-54, Psalm 117:1-2, Proverbs 15:22-23

May 21: 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13, John 11:55-12:19, Psalm 118:1-18, Proverbs 15:24-26

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