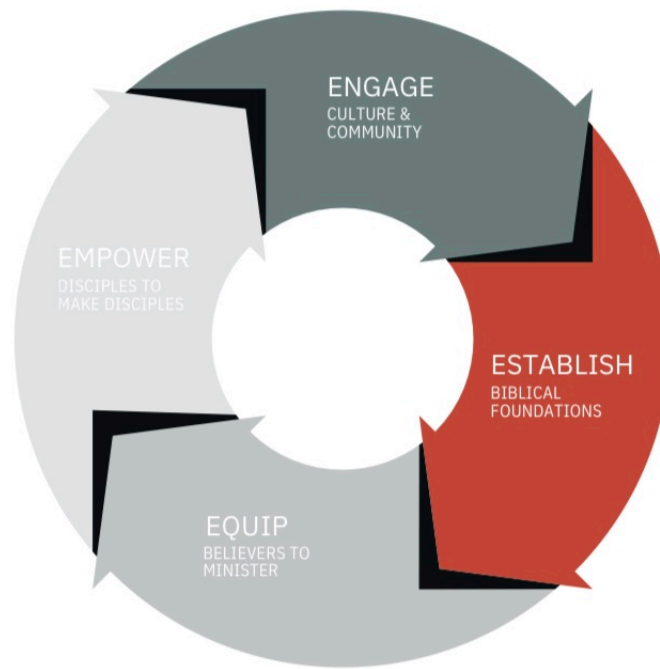


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

## Koinonia Gathering Leader's Guide

**Sermon Title:** The Cross Christ's Sacrifice

**Focal Exegesis:** Jesus felt forsaken in judgment so that we could be forgiven in grace – because of love, because of purpose, because of you.

### Leader Guide

- Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.
- Encourage everyone to participate and share their insights.
- Create a safe environment for honesty. Remind people this is about applying God's Word to life, not just hearing it.
- Lead with humility, but keep the group centered on Jesus and the Word.

### In-Depth Sermon Summary

This passage shows the crucifixion of Jesus through the lens of mockery, suffering, and ultimate transformation. Though He could have come down, Jesus remained on the cross because of love. He suffered intentionally because of divine purpose, not accident. And because of you, everything changed—the curtain tore, the earth shook, and even an outsider confessed Him as the Son of God. The cross overturns our doubts and defeater beliefs, proving God's love, confirming His purpose, and extending salvation personally to us.

### Point 1: Because of Love, He Stayed (Matthew 27:39–44)

**Summary:** Jesus endured the mockery and insults. Though challenged to prove His power, He refused to come down. His love kept Him on the cross so that we might be forgiven.

**Application Question:** What would change in your life if you truly believed Jesus stayed on the cross out of love for you, personally?

**Leader Notes:** Highlight Psalm 22 and how prophecy was fulfilled. Emphasize that God's love is proven at the cross, not by circumstances. Encourage participants to share struggles where they doubt God's love.

**Overcoming Doubts (Defeater Beliefs):** Doubt: "God doesn't really love me." Truth: Romans 5:8 – God demonstrated His love by Christ dying for us while we were still sinners.

### Point 2: Because of Purpose, He Suffered (Matthew 27:45–50)

**Summary:** Darkness fell, symbolizing judgment. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He bore the full weight of sin intentionally. His suffering was not meaningless—it fulfilled God's redemptive plan.

**Application Question:** How does knowing Jesus suffered on purpose for you reshape how you view your own suffering?

Leader Notes: Clarify that Jesus was forsaken in judgment, not in essence of the Trinity. Discuss Psalm 22 and how lament turned to victory. Point to 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 3:13 – He became sin and curse for us. Overcoming Doubts (Defeater Beliefs): Doubt: “My life is meaningless” or “Pain has no purpose.” Truth: Isaiah 53:10 – God’s will was accomplished at the cross. Your suffering can be redeemed in His hands.

### Point 3: Because of You, Everything Changed (Matthew 27:51–54)

Summary: The temple curtain tore, the earth shook, and a Roman centurion confessed Jesus as the Son of God. Access to God is now open. Redemption is for all—even outsiders.

Application Question: What barriers keep you from living as if you already have direct access to God’s presence?

Leader Notes: Emphasize grace—not earned, but freely given. Highlight that salvation is for outsiders, not just the religious. Invite participants to reflect on the curtain tearing and what that means personally.

Overcoming Doubts (Defeater Beliefs): Doubt: “This can’t really be for me. I’ve done too much.” Truth: The curtain tore for all. The centurion believed—proving the gospel is for outsiders too.

## 5-Day Devotional

### Day 1 – Because of Love

Scripture: Matthew 27:39–44, Romans 5:8

Reflection: Jesus stayed on the cross out of love for you.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for staying on the cross when You could have come down. Help me rest in Your love.

### Day 2 – Because of Purpose

Scripture: Matthew 27:45–50, Isaiah 53:10

Reflection: His suffering was intentional. My trials can have meaning in God's plan.

Prayer: Father, help me see Your purpose in my pain and trust You in the dark moments.

### Day 3 – Because of You

Scripture: Matthew 27:51–54, Hebrews 10:19–22

Reflection: The curtain tore so you can draw near to God without fear.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for opening the way. I come to You today in boldness.

### Day 4 – Overcoming Doubts

Scripture: Psalm 22, John 19:30

Reflection: The cross silences doubts about God's love, your worth, and your future.

Prayer: Lord, replace my doubts with faith. Help me believe Your cross was enough.

### Day 5 – Responding to the Cross

Scripture: Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

Reflection: The right response is worship, surrender, and faith.

Prayer: Jesus, I give You my life anew. Let me live in love, on purpose, and with faith because of You.