



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of March 10, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What gives you hope? What frustrates your hope?

1 Corinthians 15:21-28

In Christ All Shall be Made Alive

²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

- Paul believes that Jesus is fully human as well as fully divine. Why is this a precious truth for God’s people? (21)
- In the previous passage ([1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)), Paul explored what life would be like if Christ had not been raised. Now, Paul talks about the real impact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What are the things God accomplished in Christ’s resurrection?
- What happens when “the end” (24) finally comes?
- Why is it personally meaningful to you that death has been destroyed? When has it been hard to believe that death has been destroyed? (26)
- Since the resurrection of Jesus has happened, we have infinite hope, and we have power to offer hope to the world. What is one way God used you to offer the hope of Christ to others?
- Reflect on this week’s passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit
www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
kevin@wepc.org

Stories from the Church: Turning to Jesus

Each Sunday in Lent we will hear testimonies of how Jesus is leading us to repent to trust Him, becoming like Him in His death, and attaining His resurrection (Philippians 3:10-11).



Matt Wilks

March 10, 2024

**God is good! All the time!
All the time! God is good!**

I love that we say that to each other, as a reminder and as a proclamation. And, it makes me wonder how precious these words are to me and whether or not I really believe them. Easy to say. Costly to interact with.

For example (unfortunately, not hypothetical) is God good when your son gets ridiculous cancer?

I have some vivid memories over the past 8 years of time spent in hospitals with Hayes and AC. I remember putting together a big Lego set that Tim Berry brought to us at Manhattan hospital during the first of many big surgeries. I remember sipping coffee and eating Brazilian bread from a neighborhood bakery at one of the precious little urban parks near the hospital during one of the few stolen moments when both AC and I could briefly leave the bedside. And, I remember laying on the old roll out chair and staring at the hospital ceiling, sleep-deprived in the middle of the night. I was so anxious and despairing about what seemed like endless uncertainty and having to watch so much physical suffering. I knew God was good, and yet the anxiety (which we might be tempted to excuse away) about the future was telling. I think was sinful-- I'd like to give myself a pass and say that I'm only human, what do you expect? But, I think that is the point. I am only human and nothing I could do and no amount of mental gymnastics could create what I or my family needed-- the anxious striving was a lack of trust that God was good and would provide in a good way. It was a lack of trust, and an assertion that I knew better than the Maker.

During these years, particularly the first few, the Lord led me into deeper ways of talking with him when things were hard. I became a big fan of the Psalms and all of the faithful stories inside the poetry – in particular the theme and practice of lament was helpful. We had many of them plastered on the walls of our bedroom. “*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!*” ([Psalm 130:1-2](#)). The Lord also renewed my affection for Ecclesiastes, and the ancient wisdom of the Teacher. I learned to identify and rejoice in the good moments and not be too surprised by the hard moments-- and through all to see that the Lord was caring for us in his mercy. The Lord showed up in beautiful ways.

How about, is God good when your wife gets ridiculous cancer? And seriously, enough with the cancer!

In a very real sense, it was good that by this point I had plenty of practice going to the Lord, but this time the additive impact of cancer and medical decisions was particularly difficult. Things quickly got scary. Enrolling in a clinical trial is never something that you want to do because it means the typical treatments aren't sufficient. And yet there I was (there we were), back in a desperately uncertain situation. How would the Lord show me his beauty again. Some sweet days or getting ice cream or margaritas after infusion treatments, mixed with the fear of losing my wife. And the Lord showed up-- he made me curious about the moments that were ahead and reminded me that there was nowhere else to find what I needed. The Lord has called me to repentance and though far from perfect, I resonate with Peter (also far from perfect)-- “*Lord, where else shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*” ([John 6:68](#)). God is good!