



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of March 17, 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 is something you do (or do not do), simply because you believe that Jesus is alive?

1 Corinthians 15:29-34

The Present Significance of the Resurrection

²⁹ Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? ³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.”

³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

- Verse 29 is notoriously difficult to understand. We do not know why or how the Corinthians were practicing baptism for those who have died, but it is clear that Paul saw their practice as an expression of hope in the resurrection from the dead. Without the resurrection, hope in the future becomes pointless. What is one thing you look forward to simply because Jesus Christ is risen?
- Paul is convinced that Jesus Christ is “Lord” (31). What exactly is Paul declaring about Jesus? What freedom do we know when we believe that Jesus is Lord?
- Without the resurrection, Paul points out that our suffering and faithfulness would be pointless (30-33). However, since Christ is risen, we are granted strength and perseverance. Can you share a way God gives you strength to endure because Jesus lives?
- Why is it sin to deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ? (34)
- To be human is to struggle with cynicism and meaninglessness. Paul quotes [Isaiah 22:13](#) to exemplify the purposelessness of those struggles. Can you share about a time Jesus offered you His hope to lead you out of a dark season?
- 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).

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March 17, 2024

When I was 8 years old I decided I wanted to go to this summer camp called *Summers Best 2 Weeks*. And while if you ask me now, it seems like I didn't enjoy my time there, but looking back, I realize it was a real eye opener. It was the first time I felt like I ever really knew who God was. Yes there were parts of the camp I wasn't the hugest fan of, I know I went there for a reason. On one of the last few days of camp I had a 1 on 1 with one of my councilors and she really showed me what it's like to have a relationship with Christ, and I learned it was so much more than I thought. I learned that a relationship with God is personal that meant it was an ongoing conversation with him repenting of my sins, asking for forgiveness, and knowing that Jesus dying on the cross was enough to cover those things. I never went back to that camp, but I've been to other Christian camps like *Camp Willow Run, Modgnik, The Landing, and Rockbridge*. These all have provided me with an escape from my usual day to day, and provided me with a chance to spend more time with God. I don't really remember what I was like before camp, but I know I left camp different. But what I do know is that today Jesus is still leading me to other ways I can experience him like Sunday School, Youth Group, and more. This makes me feel extremely blessed because I know so

many people have not been as fortunate. He has also sent people my way who have shown me what it's like to be a Christian when you're older and how to live your life with forgiveness and compassion. I feel so lucky to be able to say I've grown up with such a strong church community who have watched me become the person I am today. Jesus is showing me how to deal with the hardships, and always has my back. In closing, I would like to leave with the verse that was helpful to me during this time. Isaiah 40:31- "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Thank you.