

Kingdom Rising – Season 4
“Kingdom Rising”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: What’s one moment in your life when silence or waiting felt especially heavy—and did anything meaningful come out of that season?

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 15:40-47 (Other passages: Mark 10:45, Revelation 7:9-10, Romans 6:9-11)

1. Why do you think the Gospel of Mark slows down and lingers on the details of Jesus’ death instead of rushing to the resurrection? What does that tell us about the importance of Good Friday/Saturday?
2. In the “Markan sandwich,” women appear as the first and last elements, with confirmation of Jesus’ death at the center. What might Mark be showing by highlighting these marginalized but faithful disciples?
3. Joseph of Arimathea risked his reputation and safety to care for Jesus’ body. Where do you sense God calling you to take courageous steps of faith—even if it costs you socially, professionally, or emotionally?
4. The sermon notes how emphatically Mark affirms that *“the Son of God was dead.”* Why is it essential to the Christian faith that Jesus truly, fully died rather than merely swooned or fainted?
5. Reflect on the “Silence of Saturday.” How might sitting in grief, uncertainty, or unanswered questions deepen our faith rather than diminish it? (How comfortable/uncomfortable are you with this part of the story?)
6. Jesus’ death completes the ransom for sin. How does understanding “ransom” language affect the way you view your own salvation and relationship with God?
7. Romans 6 says believers are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” In practical terms, what does it look like in your daily life to live as someone who has died to sin? What habits or patterns might need to be “crucified” with Christ?
8. The sermon ends by pointing forward to the miracle of resurrection. Why is the miracle of Easter only meaningful considering the reality of Good Friday and the silence of Saturday? How might holding all three days together change the way you view suffering, hope, or spiritual growth?

PRAY...

At the end of your study, spend 2 minutes in silence meditating on the death of Christ and what it means for you to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Ask God to reveal what that means, considering our collective call to ‘make disciples of all nations’ as we go about life. Share with each other what you feel the Lord is saying to you and our church.