

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

### FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

#### DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Pastor Jon said "You and I have a purpose that is eternal that will never fail. To love God and make Him known. Your purpose is to glorify God. To give him praise with your words and deeds." How did you glorify God today?

#### PRACTICING PRAYER:

Pray for people who heard the gospel this weekend at Woodlands or other churches. Pray for God to continue to work in their hearts.

#### DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Ephesians 2:10 says "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

This week, make it a practice in your daily routine to ask God to reveal those good works to you. Slow down enough to listen to God answer that request. And then do them! What in your normal schedule might you need to stop (or adjust) doing in order to have the margin to respond to God's assignments (or promptings)?

#### GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Pastor Jon encouraged us to celebrate our:

- redeemed (not temporary) identity
- redeemed (not production driven or short-lived) purpose
- redeemed (not doomed) future

Which of these resonated with you the most? Spend time in reflection and in thanksgiving with the Spirit, and let the gospel truth soak into your heart.

#### VERSE MEMORY:

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."  
Matthew 28:6



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

## Leader Resource Guide

Date: March 31, 2024

*Easter!*



## OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

What did you do to celebrate Easter? Were these your normal traditions or something different for this year?

How would you answer the question "Who are you?"

## NOTES

### REDEEMED IDENTITY

### REDEEMED PURPOSE

### REDEEMED FUTURE

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What stood out to you in your reading of Scripture this past week?
2. The Story so far... remind each other of what you learned/read/studied from last Sunday's message about Jesus' triumphal entry and this past week of interacting with Scripture. We've celebrated Resurrection Sunday - how did we get here (in the Story?)

3. Read Matthew 28:1-5. Share observations from this passage. What's happening? Next, share questions this passage raises. What do you wonder about? Lastly, share ways this passage personally impacts you.

*Some questions to answer: Who visits the tomb? When? Why now? See also Luke 23:56 24:1. How are they feeling on the way to the tomb? What problems do they expect to confront? See 27:60, 65-66.*

*Another option is to split up into groups of 4 and have each read one of the 4 gospel accounts of the resurrection. Practice using OIA or the 4 questions. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18).*

4. Read Galatians 2:20 together. What are the truths expressed here? How are they connected to each other? What does living by faith in the Son of God look like practically? Share an example from your life. What helps you to set your mind on things above and not earthly things?

*Faith in Jesus's death and resurrected life unites us to him - union with his death gives freedom from our past sin, while that same union with Jesus' resurrected life gives us freedom to live for him. Practically, what does it look like to live in this identity?*

5. With Galatians 2:20 in mind, also consider Romans 6:4-8 + 8:37. How does Christ's death and resurrection tie into our relationship with sin? If there was one thing from your past that you would like to bury with Christ, what would it be? How will you do that? How does this inform our identity, who we are?

*From ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible: "Christian baptism signifies our unity with Christ in his death; when he was crucified, we were present with him in that he bore our sins. But this also means that when Jesus was raised from death 'by the glory of the Father', a transformed way of living became possible for those who trust in him. ... Jesus' death and our union with him there, breaks sin's stranglehold. Jesus' resurrection life infuses the lives of believers both now and in the age to come."*

6. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 together. What is the relationship between grace and works? How would you illustrate each one? What has God prepared for you to be and do? Discuss "Good works are neither an after thought nor optional in the lives of believers." How does this provide meaning and purpose in our life?

*We do not work for our salvation. The unmerited favor Christ followers now live in is this - Jesus' death and resurrection secured salvation and new life for us; this is grace. His resurrection ensures that redeemed, new life is a reality we get to walk in, too. So now we work from a secure position, held by Jesus, as people transformed by the gospel and bringing it to bear in all areas + arenas of our lives. See James 1:19-27; 2:17-20.*

7. Consider the Scripture used throughout this guide (Matthew 28:1-5; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 6:6, 8:37). Read them again. How do these Scriptures inform your understanding of the gospel? Of who Jesus is? Of how He calls us to live? How is your life a testimony to who Jesus is?

*Let's continue to work out our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of grace. Let's not settle with a gospel that guarantees a 'ticket to heaven' alone - it is so much more! The gospel message is not only for proclaiming and believing; it is for living! Let's faithfully, winsomely, and joyfully tell the stories of our lives - of transformed lives faithfully following Jesus, the King!*