

Easter

EXPERIENCE THE RESURRECTION

Small Group Guide • April 15-16, 2017 • #HeartlandEaster

Easter is not just about celebrating something that happened to Jesus. It's something we can experience personally. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is available to resurrect whatever is dead or dying in our lives. We have been invited into the same kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so we would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.

There is a process to a resurrection. Each of the days between Jesus' death and resurrection teach us something. Friday represents, "The Day of Pain." In the Fridays of life, it's important for us to understand that Jesus knows what it is like when we suffer. There is no pain that His purpose cannot redeem. Saturday represents, "The Day of Confusion," when we wait for God to respond to our situation. During the Saturdays of life, we must remember that God has promised that He will never leave us. He is with us always. And there is no confusion that His presence cannot calm. Finally, Sunday represents, "The Day of Resurrection!" There is no death that His power cannot resurrect in our lives.

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. (Romans 8:11, NLT)

Talk About It

1. Talk about a time in your life when you've experienced a "Friday." In what ways has God redeemed your pain with purpose?
2. Read Psalm 73:16-17. Discuss the concept that God never leaves us, and talk about a time in your life when you've experienced a "Saturday." Share how God revealed Himself to you during this time. In what ways did his Presence calm your confusion as you waited?
3. Read Philippians 3:10-11. In what ways have you experienced God's resurrection power?

Think About It

This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step. (1 Peter 2:21, The Message)

Pray About It

Thank God for the incredible gift of His Spirit and resurrection power living inside of you. Thank Him for the sacrifice that paid your debt on the cross, and thank Him for being a risen King. Bring your pain before God, and ask Him to show you the redemptive purpose in it. Bring your confusion to Him, and ask Him to give you peace as you wait on Him. And thank Him in advance for the victory to come.

If you are in days of pain remind yourself daily that Jesus understands what you are going through and that He can put redemptive purpose in your pain. Look for ways in which God may be using your painful experience to minister to others. If you are in a season of waiting, get close to God. Get in His presence, and trust Him to bring calm to your confusion.

Leader Tip

Encourage those in your group who have not attended the Growth Track to attend. If several people in your group haven't been, you may want to attend together.



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