

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Easter 2025 - "The Resurrected King"

Monday, Apr. 21 - Sunday, Apr. 27 (Week 12)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Going Deeper Through Vulnerability.** This month, we're focusing on what it means to go deeper: not just in our discussions, but in our relationships with one another. Depth doesn't happen without vulnerability, and vulnerability starts with us as leaders. When we open up first, we create a safe space for others to do the same. Whether it's sharing a personal story, being honest about struggles, or asking questions that move past the surface-level, let's model what real community looks like. Depth takes courage, but it also leads to the kind of growth and connection we long for in our groups. Let's be the first to go there. Let's create a culture where people are known, seen, and loved. I'd love to hear how you're encouraging deeper connection this month, feel free to share stories, wins, or ideas!

ICE BREAKER: Imagine you could ask Jesus one question about His resurrection body. What would you ask and why?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We hope you will join us every Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM for our weekly corporate prayer gathering.
2. All women are invited to join us for a breakfast buffet and time of fellowship on Saturday, May 17, from 9:30-11:30 AM. We will meet at the church. Please bring your own special teacup and saucer or mug (or we can supply this for you). Email info@churchatbergen.org to register or if you have any questions.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: John 20:19-29, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In Pastor Mike's sermon, he delves into the profound question of where true peace originates, highlighting its connection to the physically resurrected body of Jesus. He emphasizes that peace is intricately tied to Jesus' resurrection, which exemplifies not just a return from death but a transformative breakthrough into a new existence, signifying hope for all believers. Using the metaphor of Gandalf's return in "The Lord of the Rings," Pastor Mike illustrates how Jesus' new body, though similar to our own, possesses unique attributes that reveal the nature of the new creation to come. This renewed existence promises a world without pain or suffering, emphasizing that believers will also be granted resurrection bodies to experience a life filled with joy beyond imagination. Additionally, Pastor Mike discusses the significance of Jesus' wounds, which remain in His resurrected body. These scars act as eternal reminders of His sacrifice and the peace He secured for humanity by bridging the gap caused by sin. He challenges listeners to confront the concept of pride, which often hinders authentic acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ultimately, he calls for a personal response from listeners, suggesting that true peace is not found in following a path or a set of rules but rather in receiving Jesus Himself. Through faith and a willingness to surrender to Him, individuals can obtain that lasting peace which



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transcends earthly struggles. Pastor Mike encourages anyone who has yet to accept Jesus to do so immediately, emphasizing that now is the time for reconciliation and peace with God.

1. Understanding Peace:

- What does the sermon suggest is the source of true peace? How does this differ from other sources of peace the world offers?
 - *The sermon suggests that the source of true peace is found in the resurrection body and the wounds of Jesus. This differs from worldly sources of peace, which often rely on external circumstances or self-effort, whereas the peace Jesus offers is a gift that comes through His sacrifice and victory over death.*
- Reflect on a time when you sought peace from worldly sources. How did that compare to the peace you find in Jesus?

2. Overcoming Pride:

- The sermon discusses pride as a barrier to receiving Jesus. Can you identify areas in your life where pride might be hindering your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to humble yourself and allow Jesus to be Lord over every area of your life?

3. The New Creation:

- How does the promise of a new creation and a new body impact your view of eternity and your current life?
 - *The promise of a new creation and a new body provides hope and assurance for eternity, emphasizing that our future existence will be more real and fulfilling than we can imagine. It impacts our current life by encouraging us to live with an eternal perspective, prioritizing spiritual growth and aligning our lives with God's purposes, knowing that our present struggles are temporary and will be transformed in the new creation.*
- In what ways can you live with an eternal perspective, focusing on the future hope of the new creation?

4. Personal Reflection:

- Reflect on the statement, "Make Him your Lord and your God." What does this mean to you personally, and how does it challenge you?
- Share one area of your life where you feel called to surrender more fully to Jesus as Lord. What steps will you take to do this?



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PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking ***and recording*** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

