



CommunityGroups

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Promise Maker / Promise Keeper - Week 5

FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENTS (approx 10-15 minutes)

THE GOAL: The New Covenant: This week we saw how Jesus made a new covenant by breaking his body and shedding his blood for us. Furthermore, we saw that Jesus arose from the dead on the third day! Jesus was the perfect sacrifice talked of in the Old Testament for the reconciliation and forgiveness of sin. Jesus was and is the gift of God that takes away the sin of the world. This week in your CG, you'll discuss Paul's writing to the Philippians in striving to live the resurrected life in Jesus. He writes that nothing surpasses the greatness of knowing and living intentionally for Jesus.

LOVING GOD (approx. 10 minutes)

- **Memory Verse:** (Have a volunteer read out loud.)
For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5
- 2 minutes of silence:
- **Devotional:**
In such an intimate moment of relationship the resurrected Jesus appeared with the two while they were on the way to Emmaus. In their honest and painful exchange of the dramatic and traumatic, in their reasoning together about the Scripture, and in their eating together, the reality of the present and resurrected Jesus became clear to them. Luke said, "Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight" (Lk 24:31). And in that recognition of Jesus' real presence, they came to understand that Jesus continued to be present with them in their relationships and community even though he disappeared physically from their immediate sight. The resurrected Christ is present where two or more gather or walk together, sharing humanity which flows to and from the heart of Jesus.
- G. W. Icenogle
- **Question to consider:**
How can the real presence of Jesus transform your daily living?
- 2 minutes of silence:

BUILDING COMMUNITY (approx. 20-25 minutes)

- Growing Connected:
Question: What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
- Discussion: Did last week's message encourage, challenge, or convict you?

MAKING DISCIPLES (approx. 30-35 minutes)

- Bible Study: Read Philippians 3:7-14. (Have a volunteer read out loud)
 1. What two things does Paul compare in these verses?
 2. What is Paul willing to let go of? What does he hope to gain?
 3. Read verses 10-11 again. What would it mean "to know Christ and the power of His resurrection"? What effect does this have on a believer's daily life?
 4. What does it mean for us to become like Christ in His death?
 5. According to verses 12-14, how does Paul describe his journey toward the resurrection life? (knowing Christ more)
- Application:
 - Consider your journey in knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection. What things may God be asking you to forget and leave behind? How/What may God be calling you to press forward or through?
 - Can you, like Paul, say that you consider everything a loss compared to knowing Christ? Why or why not?

- What was the goal or prize that Paul kept straining toward? How are you doing with that?

- What is God saying to you through this week's Bible discussion?

- How will you respond to what God is showing you?

- Going Deeper Resources:
 - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/philippians/> - Here's a great video that summarizes Paul's letter to the Philippians and gives great background of the entire epistle.
 - <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection> - As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, here is a great article that speaks to the validity of believing the resurrection of Jesus as historical truth.
 - <http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=145> - As we ponder the resurrection of Jesus, we are also reminded of his excruciating death on the cross. Here's an article that depicts, in detail, the physical and emotional toll Jesus paid to go to the cross for us.

PRAYER REQUESTS / TIME OF PRAYER