



WEEK 4 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

This week, the sermon was about Jesus being the ultimate power in our lives. As you begin your discussion this week, consider this. What is your superpower? Hospitality? Generosity? Serving? Or maybe your superpower is not quite as noble? Is it shopping? Sarcasm? Slumber? Discuss this with your group.

CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read Colossians 1:18 as a group

- This verse describes Jesus as the “firstborn from among the dead.” In the culture of the time this was written, being the firstborn had special significance. For the firstborn male, it meant he would inherit his father’s role as head of the family. It also meant he would receive a double inheritance (twice as much as the other siblings). Today, when you were born in relation to your siblings may be different for every family. Also, today this is often complicated by things such as adoption, fostering, and step-families. **Discuss in your group when you were born in relation to other siblings (if any) and what role that played in your life growing up and even today? Do you feel it had any significance at all?**
- Power and control are interesting things in our culture today. The world would tell you today that power and control is something to go after, to strive for, and often to wield over others. Young men are told to control their own destiny by making more money. Young women are often encouraged to take control by embracing their sexuality. The Bible tells us something much different. Behind most wars, most disagreements, and most scandals is a struggle for or the abuse of power. **What are some blatant abuses of power that you have observed either**

personally or in the world around us? How can we as Christians avoid falling into the trap of chasing after power?

- **What are some ways we fail to give authority to Jesus in our lives? Do you spend too much time trying to make money; even to the point of obsessing over it? Do you worry about things you have no control over? Do you try to control every aspect of your child's life more than you do praying for and over them? Are there other ways you find yourself being more controlling and less yielding to Jesus as the ultimate authority in your life? Discuss this with your group.**
- In our reference scripture of Colossians 1:18, Jesus is described as “the firstborn from among the dead.” This same description is used in Revelation 1:5. This brings to mind Jesus’ resurrection when he emerged from the tomb three days after his crucifixion. This event is of utmost importance in the life of a believer. The resurrection separates Jesus from other prophets and proves his divinity. In short, it proves that Jesus is who he said he was. This is what makes Easter such a joyous time of celebration. **Does this knowledge change how you celebrate this Easter? How can you keep the joy of the resurrection and all it means to us as believers alive all the other days of the year?**

CALLING

- “Therefore let all...be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”
(Acts 2:36-40 NIV)

Here we see Peter telling us what the proper response to the crucifixion of Jesus should be. He said, “repent and be baptized”. He then explained that the benefits of repenting and being baptized are “for you and your children and for all who are far off” and that we should “save ourselves from this corrupt generation.” **During this Easter season, who do you know who needs to be saved from this corrupt generation, who needs to repent and be baptized. Take the time to invite them to church this Easter so they can hear this message that is not only for us, but for “your children and for all who are far off.”**

- **Daily Devotions:** Read and engage with the ICON Daily Devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 to have them texted to you each morning at 7:00AM or tap on Study in Northside’s App to find the Daily Devotions.
- **Further Study & Reflection: Read these scriptures:**
 - **Acts 2:29-40**
 - **Mark 16:1-14**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

Here we read of some of the many accounts of people witnessing the resurrection of Jesus, yet for many this is still hard to believe. **Does reading these scriptures help you understand the validity of the resurrection story?**

- **Memorize:** *“And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be the head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”* **Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)**