

Small Group Guide Religion and the Resurrection

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

April 24, 2011

Romans 6:3–11

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

RELIGION AND THE RESURRECTION

Romans 6:3–11

How Do You Become A Christian?

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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- You identify with Christ in His _____ crucifixion _____.
 - He died as your _____ substitute _____.
 - You die to your _____ sin _____.
 - You turn from _____ yourself _____.
 - You trust in Christ as your _____ Savior _____.
- You participate with Christ in His _____ resurrection _____.
 - He rose as _____ Lord _____ over the grave.
 - You rise to _____ live _____ with God.
 - You are now _____ free _____ from sin.
 - You have no _____ fear _____ of death.

Message Summary

You do not become a Christian by simply agreeing or believing that a certain set of facts is true. The devil believes the facts that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again. You become a Christian by identifying with Christ in His crucifixion and participating with Him in His resurrection. You marvel that Jesus died in your place for your sins, and then rise to live with Him now and forever—freed from sin and without fear of death. To be a Christian is to be changed to the core by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as you turn from yourself and trust in Christ alone for your salvation and new life in Him.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- What is the difference between hearing about a deadly disease on TV and being diagnosed with a deadly disease? How will you react differently in each situation?
- How seriously do we take the Bible's diagnosis that we are spiritually dead and enslaved to sin? How should we react to the Bible's prescription for new life—namely that we should identify with Christ's crucifixion (repent) and participate in His resurrection (truly believe)?
- Read Romans 6:3–11. How do we become a Christian?
- Who does a Christian trust to make him/herself right with God? Who did the work and how?
- What does it mean to identify with Christ in His death? Why did Christ come to die?
- What should be the Christian's attitude toward sin?
- What is the significance of Christ's resurrection? How do we participate in His resurrection?
- How does the resurrection change your everyday life? Your struggle with sin? Your attitude toward earthly pains and pleasures? Your view of death? Your view of who is Lord over your life?
- How does the truth of God's Word found in Romans 6:3–11 confront misperceptions about how one becomes a Christian? How does it strike at cultural religiosity?
- Does baptism save a person? How is baptism a picture of Romans 6:11?
- Who do you know that needs to hear a clear presentation of the good news of Christ's death and resurrection?
- How does today's message from Romans help us present the gospel?
- How does the resurrection free us to make disciples of all nations?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?

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- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to desire and value?
- How do your desires and values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for those with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus ...

- **Lives and Church:** *The resurrection of Christ is the only basis for real hope. It is the basis for our justification (Rom. 4:25), victory over sin (Rom. 6:1-14), and rock solid assurance that God will raise us up with Christ on the last day (1 Cor. 15:12-58). The resurrection of Christ has effects on the believer and all things, for one day creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption (Rom. 8:18-23). This hope in Christ's resurrection affects our future and radically changes the way that we live now. In light of the resurrection of Christ and our hope of rising with Him, we seek and set our minds on things above, and seek to live pure and holy lives (Col. 3:1-4; 1 Jn. 3:3). Spend some time this week thanking God for the hope of the resurrection and asking God to help you live in light of it.*
- **Local:** *This week we will be praying for Changed Lives Christian Center located in North Birmingham. CLCC is a new Christ-centered ministry that offers transitional housing for men who are on their way to recover from homelessness.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for Mandi and Ashley who are two of Brook Hill's mid-term missionaries to East Asia.*