

LENT

Week 7 | April 4 Sermon

Knowing the Power of the Resurrection| Phil. 3:7-14

Community:

Over the past 7 weeks, you've gotten to know each other a little bit or a little bit better. You're learning about each other beyond the surface details of jobs and hometowns and where you went to school.

[NOW WHAT?]

For the most part, you need to keep doing what you're doing. Building trust is an ongoing process.* And it may not (or really very likely won't) be fully built by the time this sermon series closes. Think about what it feels like to be at the point at which you are with the group of people sitting around you. What have you learned that you didn't think you'd learn? What do you appreciate about your new community that you didn't even know to appreciate before this? What does it look like to move forward in community?

If your group is ready, begin talking about what will happen when the sermon series ends. Will you stay together? Will you take a break? Will you multiply and start new groups? (We're always looking for great leaders!:)) These decisions don't need to be made today, but it is healthy for you to begin talking and sharing ideas so that everyone goes into these last few weeks with the same expectations.

** Content adapted from "Community" by Andy Stanley*

Easter Discussion Questions (Kevin Korver):

1. What is meant by the phrase, "I want to know Christ---yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings...."(v. 10)? Has this ever been your desire? Do you know anyone who longed for this? What was that person like? Did you find this appealing? Did it point you to Jesus?
2. It has been said that "one the one hand, the Resurrection is a fact to be believed. On the other hand, it is an experience to connect with." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Kevin asked and answered this question in the sermon:

Question: Why does St. Paul include the phrase/idea of sharing in Christ's suffering?

Answer: Jesus told us, "In this world you will have/experience tribulations." Which means, if we live here we will suffer, be hurt, be misunderstood, be disappointed, be abandoned, lose loved ones, and perhaps, be persecuted. If Jesus experienced all of this, why are we surprised that we who bear His name experience the same?

4. Agree/Disagree? Why?

Will you consider the moment of your death. How would you respond if you were told that at the moment of our death, our spirits burst into flame in the very presence of Jesus the Lord. We will burn bright with His energy, power, love and goodness---His glory flowing in and out of us. Can you imagine it? This is what is ahead of us. This is what we are in for? We will be (come) more like Jesus. His Resurrection power will be reflected on us.