



Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 21, 2019 **Come Out, Come Out Whomever You Are**

Scripture: Romans 6: 3-10

Over the years, the celebration of Resurrection Sunday has been overpowered by the Easter festivities. This removes the focus from what is of utmost importance – which is the remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection.

If we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Bible assures us that we are incorporated into Jesus Christ. This is symbolized in our baptism with water. The Bible further teaches us that Jesus died once for all to defeat the power of death, which is the curse we live in because of sin. Jesus is victorious over death and sin. And this is what we celebrate on Resurrection Sunday. His victory over death and sin, and our redemption from sin. The sad reality is that although many of us claim to be followers and believers of Jesus, many of us remain silent in hiding about our faith. We do not share in the mission of sharing the gospel to others. This should change.

What is the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 says ***For I delivered to you ^{to}as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.***

There are heroes who have died for their country or for a noble cause but none of them died for the sin for mankind. It was only Jesus who came to die for OUR sins.

Scriptures tell us that Jesus died, and was buried and after three days He rose again. It was only Jesus who has been able to do this.

How do we know that this is the truth?

After He resurrection, He appeared to Peter, then to the 12 then to more than 500. It was because of this that many bore witness to His resurrection. It was when all these people were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, all these witness came out and started preaching about the Gospel. Unashamed, fearless, no longer thinking about themselves but rather filled with the desire to share the truth of the Gospel to as many as they can.

The question remains – why would anyone want to doubt news as great as this? Paul likewise asked this question: 1 Corinthians 15:12 ***Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?***

There were the Sadducees, the Pharisees and others who did not believe and they refused to allow the news of Jesus' resurrection to spread. They tried to bribe the Roman guards who were guarding the tomb of Jesus to tell a different story.

And yet many believed in Jesus, and many became believers in Jesus Christ.

There were those like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who finally came out of hiding as disciples of Jesus when they went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.

The Centurions who were present at the time of the crucifixion declared "Truly this is the Son of God!" (Matthew 27)

Paul continues in 1 Corinthians ***Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.***

Paul is simply telling us that if there is no Resurrection, then our sins have not been forgiven. If Jesus did not rise from the dead then He is no different from you and I, and our sins – our debt has not been paid.

Paul further tells us that if the Gospel is not true then we are to be pitied because we gave up the good life for a lie. All the Apostles except for John, died painful deaths, many early Christians fought and died for the gospel and not for a lie.

We are bearers of great news. News that can change and transform lives and yet we choose to keep it to ourselves. We forget that Jesus commanded us to tell others of the Gospel. Matthew 28:18-20 says ***And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

We are called into a relationship, not a religion. It is this relationship that impels us to OBEY ALL. Jesus Himself gave ALL for us and requires us to do the same for Him. We are not called become self righteous, but rather compassionate to those who do not know. But the only way that we can do this is by becoming disciples.

We have nothing to boast of. Ephesians 2:1-8 reminds us that we have been saved through grace. BUT we have to believe. We have to have faith. WE have to live out our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have we truly accepted God's gift of salvation? Do we truly believe? Are we sure of our eternal destination?
2. What are we doing to share this gift to others? Are we like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who followed Jesus in hiding? or are we like the early Christians who are willing to die for the gospel?
3. Are passionate about the Resurrection? Or Does our spiritual life need re-awakening?