

Discussion Guide

April 20, 2025

For Me: Week 3

Marked By Mercy

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Main Idea

Our prayer this weekend is that we didn't just show up to check a box—but that we came with hearts wide open, ready to lean into the truth of what Easter is really all about. Because this isn't just another Sunday—this is Resurrection Weekend. Jesus isn't one of many ways - He is the only way. And today, we're diving into the Word to remember that the Resurrection of Jesus changed everything. So I hope you came expectant—because I believe God's about to do something powerful.

Anchor Passage

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. Matthew 28:5-6, NLT)

Read John 12:1-9, Matthew 21:1-9, and Luke 19:39-40

1. No more shame. No more chains. You're forgiven. You're free.

Jesus didn't come to cover your sin—He came to cleanse it, completely and forever, through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Read Romans 5:25; Luke 8:39; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 71:15-18

Question: What areas of your life have you tried to cover up instead of confess—and how might trusting in Jesus' cleansing power bring freedom in those areas? Why do you think it's often easier to hide our shame than to bring it to Jesus—and what does it say about His character that He still chooses us, even at our worst?

2. God's Spirit within you produces power around you and purpose ahead of you.

When you say yes to Jesus, your old life is buried, and through His Spirit living in you, you now walk in a new, resurrected life empowered by His strength and love.

Read Galatians 2:20

Question: In what ways are you still living out of your "old life," and how can you begin to walk more fully in the new, resurrected life Jesus has given you? How would your perspective on struggles or setbacks change if you truly believed you were living with supernatural strength through Christ in you?

3. You are fully known-and still loved by God

Even at your worst, God chose the cross—because His love for you doesn't wait for perfection.

Read Romans 5:8

Question: How does it impact you to know that God chose to love and pursue you even at your lowest point? What keeps people from accepting unconditional love, and how can we begin to embrace it more fully in our own lives?

4. Jesus didn't rise from the grave so you could live stuck, He rose so you could live strong

The same Spirit that raised Jesus now lives in you, empowering you to break free from old patterns and walk in strength, freedom, and purpose.

Read Romans 8:11 and Psalm 18:32

Question: What does it mean to you personally that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you—and how does that change the way you face challenges? Are there any old patterns or cycles in your life that you feel stuck in, and how can you begin to invite God's resurrection power into those areas?

5. We have a home forever in heaven.

Heaven isn't the end—it's the beginning of everything God promised, made secure through the resurrection of Jesus. Salvation is a simple invitation, and because of Him, we can live with bold expectation and unshakable hope—starting now.

Read 1 Peter 1:3, Romans 10:9

Question: How does knowing that heaven is a guaranteed promise through Jesus—not just a distant hope—change the way you live today? What holds people back from accepting the simplicity of salvation, and how can we help others step into that invitation with faith?

SUMMARY

Today's Easter message centers on the life-changing power of the Resurrection—highlighting that Jesus didn't come to cover our sin but to cleanse it, offering us forgiveness, freedom, and a new life filled with purpose. Because He lives, we're not only marked by mercy but empowered by His Spirit, secured in eternal hope, and invited into a bold, faith-filled journey with Him—starting now and lasting forever.

CALL TO ACTION

Confess and Receive: Take time this week to reflect on any areas of shame, guilt, or sin you've tried to hide. Bring them to Jesus in honest confession—knowing He didn't come to cover your sin, but to cleanse it completely.

Live With Resurrection Power: Ask yourself daily: Am I living in my own strength or relying on the Spirit of God within me? Make one intentional decision this week to act boldly in the power and purpose Jesus has placed inside you.

Share The Hope: Think of one person in your life who needs to hear that salvation is a simple invitation. Pray for them by name, and look for a natural opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with them this week.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Easter Candy Pass

Supplies:

- 2-4 wrapped Easter candies (such as mints, chocolates) per person
- Bag(s) or bowl(s) for each group to contain candies
- Printed list of questions

Directions:

1. Have group (or groups) sit or stand in a circle within easy reach.
2. Say to the group: "In just a moment, you'll be responding to 20 Easter-themed questions. Things like: Do you ever avoid certain jellybean flavors? Have you ever had your picture taken with the Easter bunny? If your answer to any of the questions I ask is "yes," you're going to pass one piece of candy to the person on your right. If your answer is "no," you'll receive but not pass any candy. If at any point in the game you don't have a piece of candy but need to pass one, just skip that question. The person holding the most candy at the end of our 20 questions will be declared the winner."
3. Ask each participant to take two wrapped candies (you could increase this to 3 or 4, but they all need to take the same number).
4. Read the questions to the group.
5. Have everyone count up the number of candies in their hand to determine the winner.

Winner: The person(s) with the greatest numbers of candies wins bragging rights or a small prize. Let them eat their sweets when finished.

Select 18-20 of the questions below to use with your group.

1. Have you ever participated in an Easter egg hunt with real eggs?
2. Do you like to eat marshmallow peeps?
3. Do you ever avoid certain jellybean flavors?
4. Have you ever had your picture taken with the Easter bunny?
5. Have you ever attended a sunrise Easter service?
6. Are you giving up something for Lent this year?
7. Have you ever owned a pet bunny or chicken?
8. Are you planning to dye Easter eggs this year?
9. Have you ever traveled to Israel?
10. Are you planning to visit your family at Easter?
11. Do you like to eat chocolate bunnies?
12. Have you ever received non-food items in your Easter basket?
13. Will you be eating ham at your Easter dinner?
14. Do you usually purchase a new dress or outfit to wear on Easter Sunday?

15. Do you send out Easter cards?
16. Have you ever eaten a hot cross bun?
17. Do you like to eat hard-boiled eggs?
18. Will you be dyeing Easter eggs this year?
19. Do you decorate your home for Easter?
20. Do you like to eat Cadbury eggs?
21. Do you know the words to the song "Here Comes Peter Cottontail"?
22. Have you seen the movie "Passion of the Christ"?
23. Will you purchase an Easter lily this year?
24. Do you purchase Easter candy for yourself?
25. Do you eat the ears on your chocolate bunny first?
26. Are you ready to enjoy some Easter candy? (use as the last question)