



## **Easter Week Group Guide**

(for the week of April 4th)

Because of Jesus' actions, we can have life.

**Scripture:** Romans 8:34-35 , Hebrews 12:1-2, Luke 15:1-7, Luke 12:32, John 10:10, Hebrews 13:14, Isaiah 41:10,

### **RECAP:**

**This week, Ben shared with the Vertical Community the “WHY” of Easter. So often, we hear the story that begins again in an empty grave, but we rarely believe it was FOR US. What a relief it is to know we are not alone in this way of thinking and a privilege to walk alongside each other in living out the lives Jesus died for.**

### **Group Discussion:**

1. One common misconception about Jesus coming to earth is that “You’re so bad, he HAD to save you.” Is this something you were taught in church? Or, if you did not grow up in church, shown by “christians” around you?
2. Please read Romans 8:34–35.  
What are some examples from childhood until now that you falsely believed that condemnation and shame was part of your story?  
What made you realize Jesus’ resurrection ended the battle with shame you were taught to walk in?
3. It’s easy to recall WHAT Jesus did, but WHY did he willingly come to earth, knowing he would die? (Read quote by Simon Sinek under *resources*)
4. Read Luke 15:1-7  
You’ve probably heard this story a time or two, but what sticks out most to you, right now?  
What challenge can we take away from this parable? (Jesus appreciated a poor reputation with the religious because he associated with the outcast.)
5. Read John 10:10. What does “living life abundantly” look like for you? What are some steps you can take to get to a fuller life?

6. Hebrews 13:14. Easter gives us the ability to HOPE & to Celebrate, even when life around us looks daunting. In closing, share 2-3 things that you are hopeful for, and 2-3 things worth celebrating this week?

### Take Away & Action Items:

- The why of Jesus? You are valuable to him, and he wants you to have life to the full.
- Here's a good way to remember this:
  - Your value + his valor = Easter
- We honor the resurrection by living out its results.
- Accept his assessment of our value and live it out.
- Choose LIFE→ And then, we share life with those who need it.
- YOU are worth Easter.

### Resources used on Sunday:

- *When the WHY gets fuzzy, it becomes much more difficult to maintain the growth, loyalty, and inspiration that helped drive the original success. By difficult, I mean that manipulation rather than inspiration fast become the strategy of choice to motivate behavior. This is effective in the short term but comes at a high cost in the long term. Start with Why, Simon Sinek*
- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Romans 8:34–35 (ESV)
- Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)
- Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! Luke 15:1-7 (NLT)

- Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32 (ESV)
- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life and have it abundantly**. John 10:10 (ESV)
- For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Hebrews 13:14 (NLT)