

The King Has Risen Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Who is one of your favorite people to talk to?
2. Who is somebody who really impresses you?

Read the following passages: John 18:28-40.

The conversation between Jesus and Pilate makes it clear that they are living in very different worlds. Pilate is living in a world of power and politics. Jesus, on the other hand, tells Pilate that his kingdom “is not of this world.” This is a crucial reality for all of us. If we are going to live properly in this world, we, like Jesus, need to recognize that there is more to this world than this world. When we see the reality that Jesus saw, we can avoid disillusionment, fight the right battles, and find freedom from the fears that so often control our lives.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Are you wrestling with any degree of disillusionment or cynicism in your life right now? Explain. Why do you think people with outwardly successful lives can still feel like their lives are meaningless? Why do you think people who want to live for God also end up feeling disillusioned so often? Read Psalm 73:13-28. What’s the way out of our disillusionment? How can you put this into practice in your own life?
2. Compared to other seasons in your life, how much are you suffering right now? Explain. How well are you navigating that suffering? Do you find it difficult to stay hopeful in the midst of suffering? Explain. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. What can we learn from Paul’s reflection on his own suffering?
3. How aware of spiritual conflict in and around your life are you? Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-6. In this passage, when Paul talks about taking thoughts captive, he means the false ideas and perspectives of some of the people in Corinth. What does it look like practically to take thoughts captive, whether our own or those vocalized by others? Are there any areas of your life in which you need to challenge some of your own thoughts? Explain.
4. What are some of the most common ways pride and shame surface in your life?
5. Can you recognize any areas of your life in which you are functioning out of fear? Explain. Read Romans 8:14-17. How does God’s love help us overcome our unhealthy fears?

Pray