

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 4.10.22

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God's Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

Sunday Discussion

This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.

Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you. Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

Daily Discussion

These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.

Monday: Read John 16:20-22. What's an example of something painful you've experienced that turned out good in the end (the pain was worth it)?

Tuesday: Read John 16:20-22. How did the disciples grief turn to joy (see John 20:20)?

Wednesday: Read John 16:33. What perspective does this bring to daily life today? What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world? How does that impact my life and my thoughts today?

Thursday: Read John 17:13. How can we experience joy in the midst of the difficulty of life?

Friday: Read John 12:23-25. How did Jesus's life accomplish this? How do you see a Christians' life following along a similar path?

Saturday: Read John 20:13-16. Consider all the emotions Mary was feeling as she recognized Jesus. How would you respond if you saw Jesus today?

Weekly Discussion

Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another's life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.

1. How has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
2. What's a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.

An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Daily spiritual discipline – Spend some time this week meditating on these two passages: John 16:17-22 and John 20:1-23.

Consider the statements below. Reflect on times when you've seen (or not seen) these ideas play out.

Even though we can't count on Jesus reversing our difficulties, as his followers we can count on Jesus turning our grief to joy in two remarkable and deeply hopeful ways.

First, though Jesus doesn't promise to reverse our painful circumstances, he does promise to *remain* with us *in* them, which has the effect of transforming them.

And second, though Jesus doesn't promise to reverse our painful circumstances, he does promise to *redeem* them, which has the effect of transforming both them and us.

An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantepc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email (go to the "watch live" page and sign up for the prayer list) and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.