

## Growth Group Leader Guide

### Week of Good Friday & Easter

**Sermons:** Good Friday & Easter

**Text:** John 4:1-21; John 11:1-44

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#### **Focus this Month:**

- Continue to ask you group about any needs they know of or personally have.
- Continue to encourage the group to remain faithful in attending, connecting, and praying.
- Celebrate any encouraging stories from this past weekend of Good Friday and Easter

#### **Sermon Summaries:**

Good Friday: preached by Pastor McKinney from John 4 about the Woman at the Well.

- We are all plagued by “shame-barriers.” Things we are ashamed of which prevent us from experiencing the fullness of Christ’s love for us.
- Some barriers are external and vicarious. Things we have not personally done, but groups or identities that we are either a part of or born into (class, ethnicity, gender, etc.).
- Some barriers are internal and culpable. Things we are personally done in sin or have been done to us which we hide and conceal from Jesus and others.
- Jesus is the only one able to break through the internal barriers and gives us something better than “the thing” we are holding on to; namely, himself.

Easter: preached by Pastor Mike from John 11 about the raising of Lazarus.

- Jesus offers us divine hope, rather than human hope.
- Jesus’ resurrection and life are the only things which can provide us the hope we need through the brokenness, fracture, and fallenness of this life.
- His most important question in the story is “*Do you believe this?*”
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds that this life is no all there is and we have something else to look to despite the decay around us.

#### **Getting to Know You and Icebreaker:**

1. **Opener:** How is everyone feeling and doing these days? Are there any updates in the since last week?
2. **Icebreaker:** How was everyone’s Good Friday and Easter weekend?!

#### **Discussing the Sermon:**

1. What stood out to you from this past weekend from both Good Friday and Easter?
2. Pastor McKinney emphasized this “thing” that the Samaritan woman had to handover to Jesus. Did anyone have some “thing” that they handed over to Jesus? Is anyone willing to share what it was?
3. Pastor Mike emphasized the difference between human hope and divine hope, and how Jesus’ resurrection alone provides this. What things have you personally seen as incapable of providing you the hope you need? How are you practically going to lean on Christ for hope this week?
4. What do you specifically need prayer for this week?

#### **Prayer**

Pray specifically for wisdom and guidance from the Spirit at the leadership level as we navigate the future.