

Engage

Walking With the Risen Christ



APRIL 7-9, 2018

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Alpha and Omega

This week we're learning how Jesus is the glue that holds things together for us and how we can engage with Him on a daily basis.

FIRST WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- How do you start a new habit?
- What makes it hard to believe in second chances?
- What makes it hard to give second chances?

Hear God's Story and Create a New Story

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 (NIV)

- According to this passage, who is the head of the church? What does it mean to be the head of the church? What are some of the roles and responsibilities Jesus has, according to these verses?
- Why were we separated and alienated from God? What role did Jesus have in reconciling us with God?
- How did Jesus first call you to faith and reconcile you with God? What are some practical ways that you "continue in your faith" every day (Colossians 1:23)?
- When are times you've felt alienated from God in your past? When are times you've felt a peace with God because of Jesus?
- Verse 17 tells us that in Jesus, "all things hold together." What are some of the things the Scripture tells us Jesus holds together?
- What are some places in your life where Jesus is the glue that holds things together?
- Where are some places in your life that you especially need help having things held together?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses and try paraphrasing them: writing them in your own words. If you like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

Every day of our lives, nearly every physical object we interact with is held together with something. Things we depend on – cars, chairs, bridges, computers, books and so on – are held together and able to function only because of the hardware and adhesive that make those objects more than just the sum of their parts. Our relationships work the same way – it's only because of Jesus, who holds all things together, that we can really engage with God and one another in the way we were created to engage.

READ JOHN 15:1-17 (NIV)

- What happens when we remain a part of Jesus and when Jesus is a part of us? What happens when we're apart from Jesus?
- Jesus first explains how He's our source and supply. Then He gives us a command to "love each other as I have loved you" (v. 12). What are some of the ways Jesus has loved you? What are some of the ways, then, we should be loving one another?
- Jesus tells us that we're no longer servants but friends. What's the difference between a servant and a friend? How would you treat people differently if you treated them all like friends?
- How can your group or community help you remain in Jesus and remain in God's love? When are some times community has helped you remain engaged with Jesus?

READ LUKE 9:23-26 (NIV)

- What does it look like to take up your cross and follow Jesus?
- "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it" (v. 24). What part of our lives do we lose to follow Jesus? How are we saved by losing those parts of our lives?
- Where can you take up your cross today and in the days immediately ahead of you? How can your friends help?

Looking for more questions and reflections so you can keep digging deeper? There's even more to this week's study available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.