

Necessary Good

Scripture and Background Information for April 30- May 6.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Most of us are familiar with things that we call “necessary evil.” Things like laundry, exercise, or in some cases things like war and taxes. In this series we’re going to look at 4 things that are necessary for Good to triumph over the evil in our world and in each of our lives. Why did Jesus live? Why did Jesus have to die? Why did Jesus rise from the dead? And why did Jesus leave? The Bible has more to say in answering each of those questions than most of us have thought very deeply about, even if we have an answer we would give. They all relate to the Necessary Good your Heavenly Father is restoring in the world, and wants to bring into your life as well.

Background for Romans 6:1-11:

In Romans, Paul writes extensively about specific themes of the gospel and how they apply to our lives. He emphasizes things like sin, death, faith, justification, Christ’s death and resurrection, and he spends much of this letter explaining how we are to live in light of these truths. Last week, we went through Romans 5 to understand why Jesus had to die. We know from Romans 5:6-11 that it is out of Jesus’ love for us that He died. We were helpless in our sin as sinners and were therefore enemies of God. But Jesus’ death is what overcomes our sin by paying the penalty for it which is death. Therefore, He willingly went to the cross to give us the opportunity to be saved by putting our faith in Him.

This week, we switch from thinking about Christ’s death in Romans 5 to focusing on His resurrection and what that means for us in Romans 6. In our passage for this week, Paul begins by asking rhetorical questions that are meant to combat false beliefs that could arise from his teaching in chapter 5. Some may think that because Jesus died for our sins, we can just sin all we want. But Paul knows that this isn’t right. Instead, he tells them that since Christ has overcome death with His resurrected life, we are to live as if we have been raised to a new life with Jesus. This new life is no longer characterized by the sin that shrouded our old lives. In Christ’s resurrection, we now have new lives as Christians which are to be lived for the glory of God in freedom from the bondage of sin and death.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. How has Jesus overcome death in His resurrection? What are the implications of Jesus having power over death?
2. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we can live a new life. In what ways are you still holding on to the old life? What would it take to give up the old life fully for the new one?
3. What do you think God’s purpose is for you with the new life He has given you? How can you take steps to accomplish this purpose?