



## **EASTER (2024) - “Everything Matters”**

### **John 20:21-23 NIV**

*21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”  
22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

### **Psalms 104:29-30 NIV**

*29 When you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.  
30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.*

### **Ephesians 1:7-10 NIV**

*7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

### **Ephesians 1:19-23 NIV**

*19 That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

### **1 Corinthians 15:55-58 NIV**

*55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

## **Key Points**

- *God is not simply restoring but is making all things new.*
- *The resurrection of Jesus is the beginning of the new creation and the redemption of all things. Christ invites us to receive new life and live in the newness He offers.*
- *In Him, we have redemption, and our lives have become a part of His purpose and promise.*
- *There is no redemption without forgiveness.*
- *Redemption is the return to the rule of God's love.*
- *Redemption means everything matters.*
- *The power that raised Christ from the grave is the same power that is resurrecting us.*
- *Christ's resurrection ensures that nothing is wasted.*

## **READ**

**Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:**

- **Read John 20:21-23 and Psalm 104:29-30. What significance do you find in Jesus breathing on his disciples and imparting the Holy Spirit? How does this relate to the concept of forgiveness?**
- **Read Ephesians 1:7-10. Paul emphasizes redemption through Christ's blood and the forgiveness of sins. How does this passage illustrate the depth of God's grace and its impact on our lives?**
- **Read on Ephesians 1:7-10. How does the concept of the resurrection power that raised Christ from the grave being the same power we experience impact our understanding of the transformative potential of our faith journey?**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-58. How does the assurance of victory in Christ motivate us to persevere in our faith and service to Him, especially in the face of obstacles and opposition?**

## **REFLECT**

- **How does the idea that God is making all things new differ from simply restoring them? What implications does this have for our understanding of God's plan for the world and our part in it?**
- **Why is forgiveness essential for redemption?**
- **How does Christ's resurrection ensure nothing is wasted in our lives and experiences? How can we find hope and purpose in this truth?**

## **RESPOND**

- **Reflecting on our own experiences, can you share a time when you felt the tangible presence of this resurrection power in your life? How did it manifest, and what did it reveal to you about God's active work in your life?**
- **In what ways does Christ invite us to receive new life and live in the newness He offers? How can we practically embrace this invitation in our daily lives?**

## **PRAY**

**Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.**