



THE CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION

REZGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK OF MAY 1, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Roofless Sunday - May 8** - We're getting a new roof at Rez this Eastertide, so we'll be displaced temporarily on two upcoming Sundays:
 - a. Sunday, 5/8: Outdoor Eucharist and church-wide family picnic at 11 am, in Francis Marion Park, across the street from our church.
2. **Public Faith in Plural Society: An Evening with Matthew Kaemingk** - 7:30 pm Wednesday, June 8 at Rez
3. **All Parish Retreat**. Coming up on Labor Day weekend Friday, September 2 to Sunday, September 4 back at Caboose Farm in Sabillasville, MD.
4. **New Caregivers Ministry** - We're looking forward to raising up laypersons to provide quality, Christ-centered care to people experiencing life difficulties. Reach out to Jacob Rodriguez (jrodriguez@rezchurch.org) to learn more.

SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 25:1-9

Note: As you go through the material, the texts in italics are suggested answers that you are free to use as you wish. You do not have to share them with the group.

Suggestion: After reading the passage out loud together, give some time for everyone to read it again silently, then ask someone to summarize the passage.

Discussion Questions

1. **What are the three images in this text that demonstrate God's plan**
2. **Many people in Jesus' time thought the Messiah would be a political savior who would free Israel from Roman oppression. What about passages like this from Isaiah did those expectations misunderstand?**

3. **Isaiah 25:6 speaks of a feast the Lord will “make for all peoples.” Does this remind us of anything in the New Testament?**
4. **Revelation 21:4 says: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” That sounds a lot like Isaiah 25:8. What do these verses reveal about God’s character?**
5. **What does Isaiah 25:9’s statement about “waiting” tell us about Christian life?**

PRAYER

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant says

May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Intercessions and thanksgivings follow. Please include the following in your prayer:

Missionary: Laina Willoughby - Serving as a nursing instructor in North Africa

- *Laina had an accident that fractured her skull, broke five ribs, slightly punctured her lung, and led to bleeding in her brain. Please pray that her healing would be complete and swift, and she would be surrounded by community and the peace of Jesus. Please also pray for her family, including Melika McKinnis, her sister, and Seth and Brennan, that they would have peace while separated.*

Persecuted Church and her Persecutors: [Egypt](#)

- *Ask God to change the hearts of influential local leaders, to recognize and value the contribution Christians make to society.*

- *Pray for Christian Egyptians as they seek to follow Jesus in the midst of constant pressure.*

Global Concern: Conflict ridden areas: Ukraine/Russia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan. Pray for a sustainable response to the pandemic.

Church Ministry: Building Leadership Team, Stephen Ministries, Youth Ministry

*A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom
Officiant and People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant may then concludes

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*