



THE CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION

REZ GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK OF JANUARY 22, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Winter 2023 Foundations Course** Beginning Sunday, January 22. Meeting weekly on Sunday, 3:15–4:45 pm
2. **All-Parish One Another Gathering** — Wednesday, February 1, 6–8 pm at Rez
3. **Christian Formation Cohort** - Starting, Wednesday, February 15, 7 pm at Rez. Information session on after services on January 22nd.
4. **A Tunnel of Hope: An Immersive Performance** of Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" - Saturday, February 4th, 5 pm at Trinity Presbyterian: 5533 North 16th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207

SCRIPTURE - Matthew 8:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. **Who do you identify with more in this passage? Why?**
2. **What do you think it was like for Matthew and the other tax collectors and sinners to eat with Jesus?**
3. **What do you think the tax collectors and sinners thought of Jesus' statement, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick"? What do you think about that statement, since it is also about you?**
4. **Given that Psalm 1:1 exhorts God's people to avoid spending time with the unrighteous, how can Christ here "sit in the seat of scoffers" as he eats with the unrighteous? Is he breaking the law (or at least Psalm 1's exhortation based on the law)?**
5. **Do you see yourself as needing the Great Physician? Are there specific areas of your life—spiritual, relational, emotional, physical—where you need Christ's healing?**
6. **What does it look like for you to come and eat with Jesus? What does it look like to bear the cost of becoming his disciple?**
7. **How can we extend the welcome of Christ to others?**

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 forever. 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: Jim Hagan serving at the Coalition for Christian Outreach and the Augustine Center

- *Please pray for our H2O meetings, especially for the newcomers*
- *And the Augustine Center cohort, that they would learn to love God and their neighbor well*

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

- *After the fall of former dictator Hassan Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, the transitional government under the leadership of Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok introduced exciting changes to the legal framework governing life in Sudan. But as the political situation in Sudan continues to be volatile, pray for these changes to be implemented and respected in lower government levels and society in general.*
- *Christians, especially those who converted from Islam, still face many challenges. In some areas, they are vulnerable to targeted violence. Pray that amid these challenges, they will continue growing in their knowledge of Christ. Pray that they will courageously speak to others about salvation found in Him.*

Conflict-ridden areas: Ukraine/Russia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Myanmar, etc.

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 conclude:

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*