



THE CHURCH OF THE  
RESURRECTION

## REZ GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK OF MARCH 12, 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Important Lent dates:**
  - a. **A Service of Lament** – *Friday, March 31, 6-7 pm at Rez*
  - b. **Palm Sunday** – *April 2, 10 am & 5 pm services*
  - c. **Maundy Thursday** – *April 6, 6:30 pm*
  - d. **Good Friday** – *April 7, 6:30 pm*
  - e. **The Easter Vigil** – *April 8, service begins at sunset at 7:38 pm*
  - f. **Easter Sunday** – *April 9, 10 am & 5 pm services*
2. **Parenting Course** — *March 18 through April 22 on Saturdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am with a break on Holy Saturday.*
3. **Rez Youth Ministry Seder Meal** — *Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 pm at Rez. Register by March 22. Open to all interested in joining.*

### SCRIPTURE - Matthew 5:38-48

#### Discussion Questions

1. Describe what is happening in the passage.
2. In Romans 12:21, Paul tells us to “overcome evil with good.” How does Christ show us — both in the Sermon on the Mount and in His life more broadly — how to put that principle into action?
3. How does Christ fulfill the law described in this passage?
4. What does Jesus mean when He commands us to be perfect like God the Father is perfect?
5. In a political city like Washington, D.C., what does loving our enemies look like? In the broader modern culture, how are Christ’s precepts subversive? Is living like this even possible in our society?

## 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: Mike and Suzanne S, serving in the Arab world*

- *For wisdom and discernment as they recalibrate their ministry while on leave in the United States*

*Persecuted Church and her Persecutors: [Turkmenistan](#)*

- *Pray for courage for church leaders under pressure from the authorities. Pray that they will stand firm in their faith and lead as a brave example to their congregations*
- *Pray for healing for women who have suffered domestic violence because of their faith.*
- *Pray that Bibles and Christian literature will find their way safely to Christians, without interception from the authorities*

*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*