



THE CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION

REZ GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK OF MAY 21, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Summer Concert at Rez with Jon Guerra and Delaney Young — *Thursday, June 1*
- Summer 2023 Rez Foundations Course — *Beginning Wednesday, June 14, meeting weekly on Wednesdays, 7 pm at Rez (3rd Floor/ The Loft)*
- All-Parish Retreat — *Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27 back at Caboose Farm in Sabillasville, MD.*
- Rez Youth Gathering & Summer Events:
 - *Sunday 5/21 5:30 pm – Last regular youth gathering at Rez Church*
 - *Sunday 6/11 – Hiking, after morning service*
 - *Sunday 6/25 – Game Day (or rain delay hike), after morning service*
 - *Saturday 7/8 – Nats vs. the Texas Rangers, walk from the church at 3:30 pm*
 - *Sunday 7/23 – Picnic and Lawn Games, after morning service*
 - *Friday 8/11 7-10 pm – Movie Night in the Loft at Rez*
 - *Friday-Sunday 8/25-27 – Parish Retreat at Caboose Farm Maryland*
 - *Sunday 9/10 5-6:30 pm – Bible and Burgers at Rez, during evening service*

SCRIPTURE - Ephesians 1:15-23

Discussion Questions

1. What does the beginning of the passage convey about how Paul thinks of the Ephesians and the overall purpose of his letter?
2. What does Paul pray that God gives to the Ephesians? What does he mean by “the eyes of your hearts enlightened”?
3. What does Paul’s prayer suggest about the focus of his message?
4. What does the end of the passage say about the role of Christ?

5. What additional information does Paul convey about the nature of Christ and his church?
6. How can we live according to the truths in this passage?

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: Joe and Mira Costa, doing outreach and evangelism in Lebanon

- *Please pray for the Lebanese people in these very hard times, so they may trust God and hope in Him.*
- *Please pray for my trip to the U.S. I will be in Arkansas for the BMAA National Meeting and the Global Care conference. Please pray that both conferences would be fruitful and a good time to connect with friends and partners.*
- *Pray for Mira and I so that the Lord may give us wisdom to continue serving the young people of the Middle East.*
- *Pray for the events & trainings that we will be doing in the next few months. Pray that God may be glorified and that the gospel may be shared clearly and openly.*

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

- *Please pray for the Tajik government to recognize the right to freedom of religion and create laws that allow Christians to practice their faith freely*
- *Pray that church leaders who are under pressure will be equipped to lead, with full faith in God their Protector and Provider*
- *Pray that believers from Muslim backgrounds will find ways to meet to encourage one another.*

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*