

CLAIMED BY GOD

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

04/12/2026

Sermon Summary:

Pastor Pamela explored how the resurrection of Jesus doesn't just change our future, it changes our identity right now. Using John 20, we see Mary Magdalene move from grief to recognition when Jesus calls her by name, showing how resurrection becomes personal. In Romans 6, Paul teaches that through baptism we are united with Christ in both His death and resurrection, our "old self" is crucified, and we are raised into new life. This means we are no longer defined by sin, shame, or past labels, but by who we are in Christ. The Christian life is not behavior modification but identity transformation. We don't strive to become free, we live as people who already are. The invitation is to name false identities, replace them with truth, and take one step forward in the freedom Jesus has already secured.

Conversation Starter: If you could instantly become an "expert" at something overnight, what would it be and why?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for gathering us today. Quiet our minds and open our hearts to Your truth. Help us hear Your voice and understand who we are because of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture together: John 20:1–18; Romans 6:4–11

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

1. In John 20, what changes for Mary when Jesus calls her by name? Why do you think that moment is so powerful?
2. Romans 6 says we are “united with Christ” in His death and resurrection. What does that actually mean for a believer’s life?
3. Pr. Pamela emphasized that we are no longer defined by sin, shame, or past labels. Which part of that is hardest for you to believe, and why?
4. What is one “old identity” (a lie, label, or pattern) that people commonly carry that Jesus may have already put to death?
5. If someone truly believed they were “alive to God in Christ,” how would their thinking, emotions, or daily decisions begin to change?
6. Pr. Pamela said, “You don’t fight for victory, you fight from victory.” What would it look like to live from victory in a real situation this week?
7. What is one small, concrete step you could take this week to live more fully out of your identity in Christ?
8. If our identity in Christ is already secure and complete, how do we understand the ongoing struggle with sin? What does it look like to live in both truth and tension?

Memory Verse: Romans 6:11 (NIV)

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Closing Prayer: Jesus,

Thank You that You call us by name and give us new life. Help us leave behind what You have already buried and walk boldly in who You say we are. Lead us this week in freedom and truth.

Amen.