

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2026

SERIES INFO

Upside Down

Most of us already know what the good life looks like in our culture... success, comfort, confidence, control. We don't have to be taught what to chase; we're already running. In the opening lines of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus disrupts all of it. He blesses weakness, grief, humility, mercy, purity, peacemaking, and faithfulness under pressure... qualities we usually avoid, ignore, or see as setbacks. This series slows us down long enough to notice the gap between what we chase and what Jesus calls blessed. Not to pressure people. Not to shame people. But to help people see clearly. Each week, we'll unpack one of Jesus' statements and let it confront our assumptions about the good life... one attitude at a time.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

- What is a personal fun fact that reflects your unique character that most people would not know?

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest "takeaways" you had from the message this week?

DISCUSSION

1. Am I Really Living It?

Scripture: Luke 9:23; Luke 17:20-21

This week, as we enter Holy Week, we are invited to examine our lives in light of the Kingdom of God. This sacred time of the year is not just about remembrance-it is about asking whether our lives actually reflect what Jesus came to establish: the Kingdom of God. As we prepare to remember the cross and celebrate the resurrection, let's invite God to examine our hearts in reference to how we live out our faith. As we heard this week, it is entirely possible to believe in Jesus and still not be living the life He has called us to live.

1) As you think about Jesus carrying the cross to Calvary this week, what might it look like for you to "take up your cross daily" in a real, and practical way?

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2) When you think about everyday life—work, home, decisions—where do you see clear evidence that Jesus is “King” right now?

2. You are the Salt of the Earth ... Light of the World

Scripture: Mathew 5:13-16

So, if Jesus is really King of our lives, is it being reflected in how we live around others? Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth! In the ancient world, salt was used to preserve food that could spoil or go bad. It slowed down decay and kept things from breaking down. Jesus said, “If salt loses its saltiness, it’s no longer good for anything.” That means, it is quite possible to look like salt and not actually function like it. What does that look like? It looks like blending in the crowd rather than standing out. It means avoiding hard conversations about faith and standing firm in truth. It also means living no differently than everyone else. In the same conversation, Jesus says that we are “light.” Light is not subtle or private. Light is very visible. Jesus said, “Let your light shine, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven...”

1) Why do you think it is difficult for us to live visibly for Christ in our culture right now? What makes it easier just to blend in rather than to stand out and make a difference for Christ and His Kingdom?

2) When you think about “making a difference,” what does that look like in your current season of life? Where in your life do you feel like you are most clearly being salt and light?

3. A Transformed Life is the Evidence

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2; John 13:35

We have seen that the Kingdom of God (rule/reign) is now ... here ... within us. We have understood our identity in the Lord as salt and light. The natural follow up question becomes, “What is the actual evidence that this is real in my life?” Because as we learned from the message this week, it is easy to know the language, attend worship services, and believe all the right things, and still not be making a difference. “Following Jesus should be visible in how we live.” Being transformed by God doesn’t mean that you will have it all together and that you will never struggle, or even fail, but it means that you are not the same as you once were. You live life differently. Your life is aligned with the “way of the life” of Jesus. This is why Jesus went to the cross—to transform you through and through. The cross is not just about removing guilt and securing our place in heaven, but it is about creating a new kind of person in you ... a Kingdom person.

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1) When you hear that Jesus' followers will be recognized by their love for others, how do you see this playing out in everyday life?

2) If the cross is meant to transform us, what is one area where you sense God inviting you to change right now?

4. A Holy Week Moment

Scripture: John 13:1

When Jesus went to the cross on that first Good Friday, He didn't attempt to blend in. He didn't hide. He doesn't hold back His obedience to His Father nor His love for us. He lives as salt. He shines as light. He surrenders fully. He shows the full extent of His love. John 13:1 says, "It was just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love." We are now invited into His story. Cross carrying is the life Jesus calls us into. Our lives should begin to look like His. As you remember what Jesus has done this week, ask these questions ...

1) What stands out the most to you about how Jesus lived during Holy Week?

2) What would it look like for that to show up more in your life this week?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

As we enter Holy Week, we don't want to just remember what you did, but we want to respond to it. We want our lives to be shaped around it. Show us where our lives don't yet reflect Your Kingdom. Give us courage to change. Help us to live as salt and light in a world that needs You. Form us into people who truly follow You.

In Your name, Amen.