

EASTER

April 19-21, 2019

Adam Waite



⇒ **Leaders: note items marked with the arrows are key discussion questions if you're short on time.**

WARM-UP

Just for fun, let's play a little game. Without thinking long about it, circle which you would choose from each of the following three options. Then, share your responses with the group.

- car / SUV / truck
- water / soda / coffee
- watch a movie / read a book / listen to music
- Lose your: vision / hearing / sense of smell

INTRODUCTION

- ⇒ Describe your favorite takeaway from this week's sermon.
- ⇒ How do you define power?
- ⇒ What do you think of when you hear the word power?

Read Ephesians 2:1-8

- ⇒ What do these verses tell us about the power of sin?
 - What does it mean to be dead because of sin?
- ⇒ What does this passage tell us about the power of the cross?
- ⇒ Describe how you have seen the power of Jesus break the power of sin in your own life.
- ⇒ What does this passage teach us about the power of the resurrection?
 - Why is it so significant?

BIBLE APPLICATION

This week, Pastor Adam talked about choice. In Ephesians 2:1-8, which we just read, it says those who are disobedient are driven by the power of the devil, but notice what it says in verse 3 about how we follow the desires and thoughts of our sinful nature.

- ⇒ Discuss how we might forget that we have a *choice* when it comes to who or what we follow.
- ⇒ How can we sometimes give too much power to the devil and live as if we can't help ourselves?
- ⇒ It is the combination of outward temptation from the devil, combined with our internal desires of our sinful nature that causes us to stumble.

Discuss how we can break the power of **both** of those factors to defeat sin.

Read Romans 6:5-11

- ⇒ What does Paul say about the power that is in the cross and the crucifixion of Jesus?
- ⇒ What does Paul say is his primary focus in speaking about Jesus?
- ⇒ What did the power of the cross take away?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- Why did Paul keep his message simple?
- How did his method demonstrate power, rather than weakness?
- Describe how you have seen God's power show up when you were the most unsure of your ability.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

- ⇒ Why is the power of the resurrection an integral part of the gift of salvation that we can all receive and in the Christian life we live?
- ⇒ How does our own faith and our credibility rest on the truth of Christ's resurrection?

NEXT STEPS / ACTION

We have the opportunity to put the power of Jesus into practice! Live Out Love is returning this summer. Last year some of our Red Cedar Groups engaged in fun and transformational service projects, and we hope to expand that outpouring of unconditional love this year.

- ⇒ Your group leader will be getting information soon, but for this week, let's begin talking about ideas for a project your group can do together this summer in your local community.
- ⇒ Pray together about service opportunities and for God's direction for your team.
- ⇒ How might serving the people in our community lead to someone's first step toward knowing the power of the cross and the resurrection of Christ?

PRAYER

Pray for the people who are living in bondage to the power of sin who need to know the power of Jesus and his resurrection.



PERSONAL GROWTH & NEXT STEPS

At-home personal study

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

- The message of the cross is foolishness to people who are still blinded to the truth. But that doesn't change the message. It's our perception that changes when we finally understand the truth. Take a little time to remember how you were before you "saw the light."

Read Romans 7:13-25

- Where did Paul say the root of his trouble with sin was?
- Why do you think Paul's solution wasn't just to try harder?
- How can sin be seductive and deceiving in your life?
- What is the solution in verse 25?

- What choices do you need to make based on the power of sin, the power of the cross and the power of Christ's resurrection?

Meditate on Galatians 2:20

- Ask yourself if you are being obedient to what God has called you to.

Read Philippians 3:10-11

- Pray these verses as you seek the next step God has called you to

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

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NEXT STEPS TO FULL LIFE

Are you looking to grow in your faith? Do you have a friend that you could invite to join you in taking a next step? Wherever you are in your relationship with Jesus, our 3-week course is a perfect next step. "The River" was designed to help people know God better, grow in character and community, and live like Jesus.

Mondays from 6 pm to 7:30 p.m.
for 3 weeks starting May 6