



Upper Room to Empty Tomb, Part 1
“The Upper Room”
March 30-31, 2019

Opening Questions (what is God doing in your life?)

- What are you thankful for this week? (Good focus for worship & prayer)
- What is a challenge you're facing? How can our group help? (Guides your group members into caring community)
- Do you have a S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) journal entry you'd like to share, or what is God teaching you? Blank S.O.A.P. journal pages available at lifegroups.mycrosscity.com; click the “Resources” button.

Discovery Questions (hear *and* put into practice, Matthew 7:24)

- When have you done something difficult or challenging, but it was easier because you didn't do it alone?
- God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone” ([Gen. 2:18](#)). The man (Hebrew *ha adam*) had an unhindered relationship with God, lived in a garden called Eden (which means delightful or pleasant) where there was not yet sin, suffering, and death. Why did God say it is not good for the man to be alone? What does this tell us about the way he created human beings?
- Jesus taught crowds in the Temple, in synagogues, on hillsides, and on seashores. But he appointed twelve that they might be with him ([Mark 3:14](#)). What does this tell us about his strategy for discipleship and Kingdom growth?
- After the day of Pentecost, all the new believers in Jerusalem continued to meet together in the temple courts. They also broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts ([Acts 2:46](#)). Why is a weekly corporate worship gathering not enough for us to grow into Christ-likeness?
- Read [Matthew 26:17-30](#) popcorn style (one paragraph each for example).
- On the night that Jesus was betrayed he chose to share the Passover meal with twelve people that he had done life and ministry together with for three years. On this night, as Pastor Dave mentioned, they **served together... they ate together... they grieved together... they shared communion (and the Lord Jesus) together... they sang together**. Which of these have been meaningful

community experiences for you? Why? How would these experiences be different if you were by yourself?

- Pray together about God's plans and desires for your Life Group.

Bible Study Tools: In addition to a good **study Bible** (examples: NIV Study Bible, NLT Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible in NIV or NLT), here are some free online resources to help you better understand the Bible:

- <https://www.biblegateway.com>. Many translations can be viewed in side-by-side columns; includes word searches, commentaries, and Bible dictionaries.
- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>. Searches, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and an interlinear Bible (shows Hebrew or Greek alongside English, allows you to study the meaning of the original words).
- Yes, you can "**Google**" your questions, but there is a mix of good and bad online. Look for results from the above sights plus biblehub.com, biblestudytools.com, studylight.org, and bible.org. If you're not sure about what you're reading, ask one of our pastors or a Christian friend you trust. Many advisors bring success (Proverbs 15:22, NLT)!

Daily Devotion (Bible reading, Prayer, Journaling): Encourage group members to engage with the Bible 4 or more times each week. Recent studies have shown that this is the most important factor in ongoing transformation. Options:

- Crawl: Verse of the day from YouVersion or BibleGateway Bible Apps.
- Walk: Short reading plans from YouVersion Bible App.
- Jog: Bible reading plans available in Worship Center lobby, at your own pace.
- Run: **Life Journal** (includes reading plan, daily pages, table of contents to track entries, prayer list). Available at <http://www.lifejournal.cc/>.

CALENDAR (3 terms per year: Fall, Winter, Spring)

- Week 1: Discussion Guide
- Week 2: Discussion Guide
- Week 3: Prayer Experience (using provided guide)
- Week 4: Discussion Guide
- Week 5: Strongholds discussion/prayer (using provided guide)
- Week 6: Serve Experience: see Outreach Questions above
- Week 7: Discussion Guide
- Week 8: Discussion Guide
- Week 9: Discussion Guide
- Week 10: Celebration: share the biggest thing God has done in your life over these 10 weeks, affirm and pray a blessing over each other, share communion.