



ACTS OF THE
Holy Spirit

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

18 & 19 FEB 2023

“THE SPIRIT WHO TRANSFORMS LIVES”

ACTS 26.2-29

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

Sidebox

Jesus' resurrection – how does it impact the manner we live?

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ vindicates his claims to be the true Messiah and Son of God, shows that God is more powerful than death itself, and is a demonstration of God's victory over sin and evil. These aspects validate Jesus' identity and show forth the redemptive purposes of God.

Christ is the firstfruit of the resurrection of our human bodies. Indeed the resurrection of the body is a fundamental doctrine in Christianity. (1 Corinthians 15.12-20; see also the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed)

But what about for our lives in the here and now? Apart from showing us who Jesus really is, what salvation really entails, and teaching us orthodox doctrine – does Jesus' bodily resurrection have implication for our daily living?

The answer: yes. Consider the following Scripture passages:

- The same power God worked in Christ to raised him from the dead, is at work in us today. (Ephesians 1.19-21)
- As Christ died, we too die with him towards sin. As Christ has been raised, we too are raised with him to walk in newness of life. Baptism is a reminder of this important reality. (Romans 6.3-11, Colossians 2.12-15)
- We live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and has been raised for us. (2 Corinthians 5.15)
- Since our bodies will be raised as Jesus was bodily resurrected, our bodily sexuality ought to be pure (1 Corinthians 6.14-20). We care not just about our souls, but our bodies also.
- At funerals, we grieve as all human beings do – yet as Christians we grieve in hope because of the resurrection. (1 Thessalonians 4.13-15)
- We can steadfastly persevere in our labours in the Lord, for with the resurrection, they are not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15.53-58)

2. The sermon reminded us that Jesus' resurrection was not simply a concept to be affirmed, but a present and lived reality for the Apostle Paul. Likewise for us, the resurrection of Christ ought to be more than just an affirmation of eternal life, but an actuality experienced even in the here and now. In what ways does Jesus resurrection make a difference in your life, at present? Discuss as a CG. (The sidebox may help if you get stuck.)

3. Read Acts 26 verses 14-19 and 24-32. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your hearts and minds as you consider the following.

- a) Can you identify some areas in which you have been “kicking against the goads” (v.14) or resisting God's will and work in your life?
- b) Are there areas in which you been making excuses like Festus (v.24)? Or dodging the hard questions like Agrippa (v.28)?
- c) How is the Lord inviting you to respond, in light of the above questions?

4. This final sermon, titled “The Spirit who Transforms Lives”, is a fitting close to our series *Acts of the Holy Spirit*. As we round up the series, take time to review as a CG:

- a) How has the Holy Spirit begun to transform your life through this sermon series? This transformation could be in a big way or a small way. It could also be in various aspects – thoughts, perceptions, actions, habits, desires, values, etc.
- b) How has the Holy Spirit begun to transform your CG through this sermon series? Again, this could be in various aspects.
- c) Don't forget to give thanks and praise for the ways God has been at work, and continues to be at work among you.

Prayer Items

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.