

Three Days to Resurrection

Big Idea

This Easter, as we thank God for the cross and worship Him for the miracle of the resurrection, one of the most powerful concepts we can embrace is the fact that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. One of the implications of this truth is that the resurrection of Jesus gives us power to close the gap between the life we are living and the life we could live. The three days between Jesus' death and resurrection show us a progression through which pain becomes victory, and the difficult seasons of our lives can take this same path when we partner with the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. Friday represents the "Day of Pain," when we are warring through a trial. In the Fridays of life, it's important for us to understand that Jesus knows what it is like when we suffer. There is no pain that His purpose cannot redeem. Saturday represents the "Day of Confusion," when we wait for God to respond to our situation. During the Saturdays of life, we must remember that God has promised that He will never leave us. He is with us always. And there is no confusion that His presence cannot calm. Finally, Sunday represents the "Day of Resurrection," when God empowers us to win the victory over the enemy and overcome the difficulty we've been facing. There is no death that His power cannot resurrect in our lives. Whether we are in a season of warring or waiting, if we partner with the Holy Spirit in the face of trial, we will ultimately win. He has conquered death, and He freely shares His victory with us!

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you." – Romans 8:11 NLT

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time in your life when you've experienced a "Friday." In what ways has God redeemed your pain with purpose?
- Discuss the concept that God never leaves us, and talk about a time in your life when you've experienced a "Saturday." Share how God revealed Himself to you during this time. In what ways did He calm your confusion as you waited?
- Discuss Watchman Nee's statement: "Our old history ends with the cross. Our new history begins with the resurrection." Share how you have seen this to be true in your own life. In what ways have you experienced God's resurrection power?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for the incredible gift of His Spirit and resurrection power living inside of you. Thank Him for the sacrifice that paid your debt on the cross, and thank Him for being a risen King. Bring your pain before God, and ask Him to show you the redemptive purpose in it. Bring your confusion to Him, and ask Him to give you peace as you wait on Him. And thank Him in advance for the victory to come.

Next Step

If you are in a season of warring, remind yourself daily that Jesus understands what you are going through and that He can put redemptive purpose in your pain. Look for ways in which God may be using your painful experience to minister to others. If you are in a season of waiting, draw near to God. Worship daily. Get in His presence, and trust Him to bring calm to your confusion.

Leader Tip

Encourage those in your group who have not attended Step 1 of the Growth Track to attend. If several people in your group haven't been, you may want to attend together.