

Adult Small Group Discussion Guide

Easter Sunday 2025

Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone to the group
- Open with a prayer asking God to guide your discussion and help everyone gain deeper insights from Ken's sermon

Scripture Reading (5 minutes)

Have different members read these key passages:

- Genesis 1:1
- John 17:24
- Ephesians 1:4
- 1 Peter 1:18-20
- Revelation 13:8

Main Themes Overview (5 minutes)

Briefly review the central themes from Ken's sermon:

1. God's eternal love existed before creation
2. Jesus reveals what was hidden since the foundation of the world
3. The cross was God's original plan, not a backup solution
4. God chose us in love before creation
5. The resurrection transforms death into life, just as flowers transform the cross

Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

God's Eternal Nature

1. Ken emphasized that "before the foundation of the world" God the Father loved God the Son. How does understanding that love is at the core of God's eternal nature change how you relate to Him?
2. The sermon states that "God is love" as His very essence. How might your life look different if you consistently viewed God primarily through this lens?

Chosen Before Creation

3. According to Ephesians 1:4, God "chose us in Him before the foundation of the world." Share your thoughts and feelings about being known and loved by God before He ever created you.
4. Ken said, "The foundations of the world were laid with us in mind." How does this perspective change how you view your purpose and value?

The Cross as God's Original Plan

5. The sermon teaches that Christ was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." What difference does it make to your faith knowing that Christ's sacrifice wasn't a reaction to sin but God's predetermined plan?
6. Ken stated, "The cross wasn't something God came up with because things did not go as planned." How does this reshape your understanding of suffering and redemption?

Love, Risk, and Relationship

7. The sermon notes that "love always involves a risk" and God created us knowing we would rebel. How does this insight impact how you understand both God's love and your own relationships?

Transformation and New Life

8. The imagery of "flowering the cross" represents how God transforms death into life. Where in your life have you experienced God turning "ashes into beauty" or "mourning into joy"?
9. Ken mentioned we might "have to live through Saturday a while longer" before experiencing resurrection power. What "Saturday" waiting period are you currently experiencing, and what helps you maintain hope?

Application (10 minutes)

Discuss these personal application questions:

1. What is one specific way you can live differently this week knowing you were loved and chosen before creation?
2. How might your perspective on current challenges change if you view them through the lens of God's transformative power?
3. Who in your life needs to hear about God's eternal love and plan of redemption? How might you share this message with them?

Prayer Requests and Closing (10 minutes)

- Share prayer requests, particularly related to areas where members need God's transformative power
- Close by thanking God for His eternal love and redemptive plan that existed before creation
- Pray for each person to experience the resurrection power of Christ in their specific circumstances

For Further Study During the Week

- Read John 17 completely to understand more about Jesus' relationship with the Father
- Reflect on Ephesians 1:3-14, noting all the things God planned "before the foundation of the world"
- Meditate on Isaiah 61:1-3, considering areas where you need God to transform mourning into joy