

# EASTER 2026: THE THRILL OF VICTORY AND THE THRILL OF DEFEAT



## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at [marinerschurch.org/messages](http://marinerschurch.org/messages).

### MAIN POINT

Because Jesus rose from the dead, His victory over sin and death is real, complete, and available to us—not something we achieve, but something we receive. When we surrender to Him, we stop striving to earn God’s love and begin living from the freedom, forgiveness, and new life He has already secured for us.

### LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

**Was there a time when you experienced the thrill of victory—or the agony of defeat—and why did it stick with you?**

### LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17, 20–22, 57

3 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

20 But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**According to verses 3-4, why does Paul say the resurrection is “of first importance”? What stands out to you about how he describes it?**

**Verse 17 says that if Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins. What does that reveal about our true spiritual condition apart from Jesus?**

**In verses 20-22 and 57, what specific victories does Jesus accomplish for us? How would you explain those in your own words?**

---

**LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE OF  
GOD’S WORD IN  
THE WORLD**

**Many people believe all religions are basically the same. Based on this message, what makes the message of Jesus uniquely different?**

**Where do you see people around you trying to “earn” their way to acceptance, purpose, or God?**

**How might the message that “victory is a gift, not something earned” be both frustrating and freeing to people in our culture?**

---

**LOOK IN  
APPLY GOD’S  
WORD TO YOUR  
LIFE**

**Which is harder for you to accept: that you are more sinful than you thought, or that you are more loved than you imagined? Why?**

**Where in your life are you still trying to achieve or prove yourself instead of living from the victory Jesus has already given?**

**What would it look like for you this week to surrender more fully to Jesus—not just receiving His victory for you, but allowing His victory over you?**