

*If God is speaking to you today...Keep listening.*

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# SUNDAY SOCIAL

APRIL 7 • 12:45 PM



RSVP for  
Meet & Greet



# BAPTISMS

*April 7*

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WOMENS REFRESH

## come after me

BUILDING A LIFE WITH JESUS

May 3 & 4

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# THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

GOD'S FAMILY  
EPHESIANS 2:18-22

WEEK 9



## Christians don't follow man-made systems to reach God They follow a person. And His name is Jesus.

According to Wallet Hub, this Easter Sunday will be very busy. One hundred eighty million Easter eggs will be painted, and 1.5 billion marshmallow Peeps will be eaten. The most expensive chocolate Easter bunny will cost \$49,000, clocking in at 584,000 calories! Three in four parents will discuss eating candy in moderation with their children, and 80% of those same parents will steal candy from their child's stash. In all, 43% of Americans will attend church, many of them not even knowing why they are there. I remember attending a sunrise service during college. I was present, but I had no idea what was going on. I certainly wasn't a fan of religion. A good percentage of Easter churchgoers will have the same frame of mind.

There is a growing percentage of Americans who maintain a belief in God but have abandoned organized religion. If organized religion is defined as man-made systems that provide a means of focusing human effort to reach God, then I must say I am non-religious as well. Christians don't follow man-made systems; they follow a person. His name is Jesus. He is loving, merciful, gracious, and self-sacrificing, and did I mention, He also rose again from the dead? Jesus came to make a way for us to be a part of God's family and to live with His presence in our lives. It is an invitation extended to everyone but only realized by those who genuinely believe.

### (10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask Him to refresh your joy for being a part of His family and the presence of His Holy Spirit in your life.

### (25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Christianity cannot be reduced to a denomination or a system of man-made rules that we live by to reach God. Being a Christian means being a part of God's family. How have you experienced God's family as a Christian? Describe that. In what ways can you help the fellow Christians in your life be more like a family?

**Referring to God as Father means the church can't be reduced to a denomination or system. It is God's heavenly family.**

2. What does it mean to build your life on Christ? What has that looked like for you? What areas of your life do you need to depend more on Jesus? List them and spend some time praying that list through.

***Jesus is the only one worthy of resting the total weight of your faith upon.***

3. The presence of God's Spirit in your life satisfies your soul. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit comforts us, supplies hope and peace, enables us to love, fills us with joy, helps us to be patient, and so much more. Jesus said the person who has the Holy Spirit will have rivers of living water pouring from their lives. Describe how that is true in your life. In what ways do you need to allow the Spirit to do more of those things in your life? your life?

**Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."**

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn back that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."**

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Spend extended time discussing how your Life Group operates like a family. Encourage each other by identifying how you have been blessed in your Life Group. Spend time talking about how you would like to see your Life Group grow, not just in numbers but in the quality of the community you experience and how you can reach others.

### (5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Pray that God would place at least one person in your life this week who you can encourage to make Jesus the foundation of their life.

