

## Close to God by Christ's Resurrection

May 17/18, 2017

Pastor Jeff Hesse

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.* (1 Peter 3:18a)

### Small Group - Sharing our Stories of Faith:

- i. Share a time when you were drawn close to God. What happened? How did you know God was there?
- ii. How does God's presence connect to Christ's resurrection?

### What does God say?

- 1) **John 14:15-21** List Christ's promises for you in this text. What do these promises connect to? What is "the world" missing?
- 2) **Acts 17:22-31** What contrasts can you see in this text between distance/**closeness**, death/**life**, seek/**find**, fiction/**truth**, randomness/**intentionality**, stillness/**movement**, created/**Creator**, other contrasts? How did Paul connect unbelievers with life in Christ?
- 3) **1 Peter 3:13-22** How is suffering spoken of in this text? Where is God? Why should we remember our baptism? What does this have to do with the resurrection?
- 4) **Other Scripture Readings: Hebrews 10:19-25** (What is drawing near?) **Romans 6:4-5** (How does Paul speak from personal experience... under God's identity and promises?)

### Application to everyday life... right now... future:

- i. Reflect on each of these readings... how do they apply to you? How has God come to you? What about the times of celebration, doubt, weakness, struggles, embarrassment, sin?
- ii. What common threads run through them that are real for you?
- iii. How does this define/frame your interactions in this world?
- iv. What is the over-arching Master Narrative... which draws you to God? Do you find comfort, inspiration or calling in God's presence?

### Personal Reflection & Prayer: Now what? What is next for you?

*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* (John 14:16-17a, 18)

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