

SERMON SEQUEL SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 21

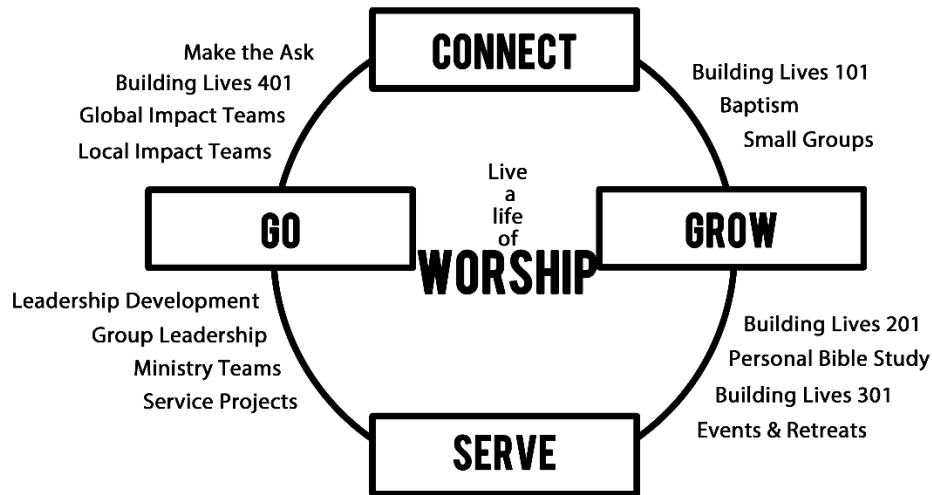
WWW.PARKWAYCHURCH.TV

At Parkway, we are:

Building lives that honor God.

In Small Group, we are:

We are building relationships that build disciples.



Small Group Ground Rules

Small Group ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within to encourage discussion-based learning and relationship building. They help group members value one another so that everyone grows more comfortable sharing deep, meaningful things.

- **Priority:** Be here. What we are doing matters.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said here stays here.
- **Respect and Honor:** Give everyone room to share and grow
- **Welcoming:** We will pray for and invite others to join our group and fill the empty chair.

We strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest.

What We Do in Groups?

Our groups do five things together:

- **Connect:** have fun building relationships and doing life together
 - Recommend gender-based groups (men with men and ladies with ladies) for the last meeting of the month.
- **Grow:** study and grow through conversation-based learning
 - Sermon based small group studies and 30 essential Bible stories
- **Serve:** make a difference by serving together two times a year
 - Need list of serving opportunities before group season starts
- **Go:** pray for people and fill the empty chair by inviting others
- **Worship:** groups worship together frequently
 - Small Group Sundays - sit together, celebrate being connected to community

Life-change happens best in a Biblical small group.

FORGIVEN AND FREE

Because of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, those who believe in Him are forgiven and free. Forgiven from the penalty of sin and free from the power of sin. Through our series, Forgiven and Free, you will be reminded of all that Jesus has done for you so that you can live with the confident freedom that only God provides.

FORGIVEN AND FREE: I'M FORGIVEN

Sermon Date: March 25

FORGIVEN AND FREE: I'M FREE

Sermon Date: APRIL 1

FORGIVEN AND FREE I'M FORGIVEN

When we read the story of Jesus' crucifixion, we see God's love, grace, and mercy in full display. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the sins of the world upon Himself and paid the price for all the world's wrongs. Never forget: You are forgiven because of what Jesus has done for you!

Get Talking

What are some of your family's Easter traditions?

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

²⁶ As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wept for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'" ³⁰ Then

*"they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"
and to the hills, "Cover us!"*

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

*³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." **Luke 23:26-35***

Discuss and Apply the Message

Why did the soldiers force Simon to carry Jesus' cross?

What did Jesus mean when he spoke to the women in Luke 23:27-31?

Read Luke 23:32-35. What purpose did Jesus' death serve?

Jesus' death paid a price we could never pay on our own. We can never earn God's love—it is freely, graciously given. Is this a difficult concept for you to understand?

Do you sometimes feel like you have to earn God's love, or get all the "rules" right?

Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins. Is it hard to forgive others?

Can you think of a time that forgiveness helped one of your relationships?

How do you feel about being forgiven by God?

What can you do this week, to live remembering that you are forgiven?

FORGIVEN AND FREE I'M FREE

When we read the story of Jesus' resurrection, we see God's power in full display. When Jesus rose again from the dead, He proved that He is God and He proves that He has power over sin and death. Never forget: You are free from the power of sin and death because of what Jesus has done for you!

Get Talking

Who is the strongest person that you know? How do they display strength?

WATCH THE VIDEO

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Luke 24:1-7

Discuss and Apply the Message

The women felt fear and joy at the angel's news. Why were they afraid? Why were they joyful?

Can you identify with their feelings in your own journey these past couple of weeks?

Imagine the women coming to your small group discussion and telling you the good news of Jesus' resurrection. How would you respond?

What questions would you ask?

What action would it prompt you to take?

Like the women, we share this story with others because it is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. Jesus—the Son of God, the Messiah—suffered on our behalf, entered into death and overcame death with life. No matter how dark our situations, God’s love is more powerful. Jesus is victorious. We hear his voice telling us not to be afraid, calling us share His message with others.

Read Luke 23:36-49. What do we learn about sharing our faith with others based on the story of the criminal on the cross?

When it comes to sharing your faith in Christ, what are the essentials others must hear about Jesus and you?

How did each of the people in the story respond to Jesus’ death?

- Criminal #1
- Criminal #2
- Centurion
- Jesus’ followers

What types of response should we expect when we share our faith?

How can this group help you share your faith with others?