

# WEST RIDGE GROUPS

## Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of March 29, 2026

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### CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian continued our teaching series through the book of Romans - *The Power of Grace*. In Romans 6:1-14 the Apostle Paul addresses the question of whether God's abundant grace gives believers a license to continue sinning. Paul's answer is that through union with Christ, believers have died to their old identity and have been raised to new life, making continued sin incompatible with who they now are. Baptism symbolizes this complete identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, publicly declaring that the old self has been crucified and buried with Him. As Christians, we are called to "consider" ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. This is not wishful thinking, but we are agreeing with the objective reality of what God has already accomplished through the cross.

### GROUP DISCUSSION (-50 minutes)

1. What did you find most compelling or challenging about the message this week? Share your thoughts with the group.
2. **Read Romans 6:6**  
These verses tell us that our old self was crucified with Christ. In what areas of your life are you still speaking or acting as though sin owns you, rather than living from your new identity in Christ? How might remembering your union with Christ change how you respond to temptation?
3. **Read Romans 6:3-4**  
Baptism represents our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. How does understanding baptism as a public declaration of belonging to Jesus (not just forgiveness) deepen your view of what it means to follow Him as Lord?
4. Romans 6:4 says we are raised "so we too may walk in newness of life." What does "resurrection life" look like practically in your daily walk? What old patterns is God calling you to leave behind, and what new ways of living is He inviting you into?
5. Pastor Brian said, "This is not positive thinking. It is reckoning. It is agreeing with what God says is true of you in Christ before sin gets a vote." What's the difference between positive thinking and biblical reckoning? How does understanding this distinction change the way you fight temptation in your daily life?

## **WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)**

Prayer — How can we be praying for you? What are you excited about right now? What are you worried about?

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

*What does it look like to hold each other accountable?* It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

*Example:* “Hey \_\_\_\_\_, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):