



## Discussion Guide Red Letter Challenge — Part 6 LEADER GUIDE

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*Hey small group leaders! We hope you are remaining humble and open to being challenged, encouraged, and drawn more deeply into the love of Jesus as we explore the “Red Letter Challenge”! It’s our deepest desire that our church family SEES Jesus as He truly is, be YOKED to Him, finds REST for their souls, and BUILDS their lives on His word. Would you pray with and for your small group over the FINAL week?*

***Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!***

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

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**“Joy is the infallible proof of the presence of God.”**

[Madeleine L'engle]

**LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
  - Jesus appears to His disciples in the midst of their fear, anxiety, and uncertainty with assurance and a commission. The truth of His resurrection and the coming of His Spirit gave them joy to fulfill their purpose of taking the good news to the nations.
- **Red Letter Commitment Card**
  - During the final week of the Red letter Challenge (October 20), we will invite people to commit to taking a next step in one (or more) of the areas we focused on. We hope you’ll challenge and encourage your members to take a step.
  - *In addition, what step could your group take TOGETHER?*
- **Luke 24 Commentary, Resurrection & Appearances, & Are You Too Christian For Non-Christians?**
  - Use this commentary, short video, and article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before and/or after you gather.

**ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.*

How have you experienced the “joy of the Lord” in the past week?

**\*OPTIONAL\* DEVOTIONAL RECAP || Leader Note** *This is an opportunity to allow people to share what they gleaned from the previous week’s devotional readings. This should be kept short (30 seconds per person) so there is time for the discussion and prayer time. Your group can also share through a group text.*

What is one thing that God taught you, convicted you of, or invited you to begin doing as you read the devotional last week?

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note** Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones;  
shout for joy, all you upright in heart.”*

[Psalm 32:11]

**BIG IDEA || Leader Note** Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

Uncertainty can talk us into pursuing a back-up plan instead of our purpose as God’s people – to share the joy we have in the Lord!

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note** Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have a few people read aloud Luke 24:36-53.

1. In the sermon we heard, *“Uncertainty (i.e. fear, anxiety) can make God seem like a stranger.”* How have you found this to be true in your life recently? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. How did the resurrection change the disciples' fear and uncertainty into purpose and joy? *Initially, the disciples were fearful and confused, but Jesus' resurrection affirmed His divine identity and His victory over death. This shifted their perspective from despair to hope. They received a clear mission and purpose – to spread the good news to the nations. The reality of the resurrection provided the foundation of their faith and empowered them to act as witnesses.*
3. How can the resurrection give you clarity and purpose in the midst of your own fear and uncertainty? *Answers will vary: like the disciples, we face fear, uncertainty, and doubt in our daily lives. The resurrection is a reminder that Christ has overcome the greatest obstacle—death—and that He is present in our struggles. Knowing we are empowered by the Holy Spirit gives us the assurance that our purpose is to share His love and truth despite the challenges.*
4. What role did the promise of the Holy Spirit play in the disciples' ability to fulfill their mission? What role should He play in our mission? *The promise of the Holy Spirit was crucial because it provided the power and guidance necessary for the disciples to fulfill their mission. Jesus made it clear that the task ahead was beyond their own abilities, and they needed the Spirit's presence to carry out His commands. This transformed them from fearful individuals into bold witnesses.*
5. What does it mean to be a "witness" of the resurrection? How are you doing at living that out? *Answers will vary: to be a witness of the resurrection is to testify to the truth of Jesus' victory over death; it means sharing not only the historical fact of His resurrection, but also its ongoing impact in transforming lives; as witnesses, we are called to point people toward the hope found in Jesus.*
6. Our purpose is to "share the joy we have in the Lord." How can joy be an effective tool for evangelism? *Joy, especially in challenging times, reflects the deep and unshakeable assurance Christians have in Christ. When others see the steadfast joy of believers, they are often drawn to it, leading to opportunities for evangelism. The joy of knowing Christ is a powerful testimony because it goes beyond circumstances and demonstrates the life-changing reality of the gospel.*

7. How does the idea that "purpose conquers uncertainty" resonate with your own experiences of doubt or confusion?
8. What practical steps can you take to live as a witness of Christ in your current circumstances?  
*Answers will vary: engage in conversations about faith, display Christ-like love in relationships, and be open about personal experiences of God's work in your life. Being intentional in showing Christ through actions—whether through service, kindness, or hospitality—also speaks volumes.*
9. How does the disciples' transformation from fear to joy challenge how you view your own fears about sharing the gospel? *The disciples' fear was transformed by encountering the risen Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that our own fears about sharing the gospel can also be overcome by trusting in the power of Christ and the Spirit. Their story encourages us to step out in faith, trusting that God will equip us.*
10. What does it look like to live in the "marvelous light" of Christ? How can this reality impact your daily life and interactions with others? *Living in the marvelous light means being constantly aware of God's grace and the salvation we have in Christ. It impacts daily life by transforming our attitudes, actions, and relationships. When we live with the knowledge of this light, it affects how we treat others, how we face trials, and how we prioritize our lives around God's purposes.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE** || **Leader Note** This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

Despite our own fears and uncertainty, God's empowering presence is enough for us to fulfill our purpose —> *showing and sharing God's Kingdom and the joy of being part of it (GOING)!* Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take in this area of your life?

Here are a few additional questions to help you discern how to show the availability of His Kingdom to those around you ...

- How can you embrace your **ROLE** of witness more fully? Witnesses in God's Kingdom are:
  - sent from love!
  - for love!
  - with joy!
- Do you recognize when your "witnessing" is not **TO** Christ? Remember, witnessing is NOT:
  - technique to use on a target!
  - knowledge as a weapon!
  - winning the argument!
  - disdain toward non-believers!
- How can you **GIVE** God and others your:
  - personality?
  - proximity?
  - presence?
  - prayers?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

**PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note** We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!

### **Witnesses of His Joy**

- Lord, we know that uncertainty can often lead us to doubt and make us hesitant to fully trust in you. It's easy to stray from our calling because we fear the unknown. However, you remind us that our purpose is not found in worldly security, but in the joy we have in you.
- Let's pray that in uncertainty, we would not be distracted or dissuaded from sharing the joy of the Lord. We ask for the courage to pursue your plan wholeheartedly, trust you more deeply, and know that your plans are greater than any we could devise for ourselves.

**MEMORY VERSE || Leader Note** Through this series, we want to encourage your group to memorize the passage below, as it is one of the foundational truths upon which the "Red Letter Challenge" is based on. Psalm 119:11 tells us, "I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you."

*"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock."  
(Matthew 7:24-25)*

**RLC RESOURCES || Leader Note** Below are additional resources that you can share or use before, during, or after you gather. If you have questions, contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

- **Rock Bridge WEBSITE**
  - This contains an overview video and links to a 40 day Bible reading plan, which complement and enhance the Red Letter Challenge series.
- **Red Letter Challenge VIDEOS**
  - These short videos can be sent to your group before you gather, watched at your gathering, or sent to follow up the discussion. They are NOT the discussion content.
- **Red Letter Disciple PODCAST**
  - This podcast does NOT go along with the series, but is about discipleship and will equip and encourage you. This would be best for people to listen to on their own.