



Discussion Guide
Over/It – Part 1
LEADER GUIDE

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We spend so much of our lives trying to prove we're okay—to ourselves, to others, even to God. But the resurrection is God's final word: you are fully forgiven, fully accepted, and free to live differently. This series explores how that truth becomes real, present power in our everyday lives.

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

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"There is no question of what we can make of Him, it is entirely a question of what He intends to make of us. You must accept or reject the story."

[C.S. Lewis]

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**
 - The resurrection is Jesus' vindication and can be ours, too, by faith. This vindication becomes a present, right now power and a life power, empowering us to live as new creations in Christ. We see this present power and life power in the forgiven woman and associated parable of Luke 7. She walks in the vindication she receives from Jesus, enjoying His presence and overcoming her past.
- **The Resurrection of Jesus**
 - The Bible Project's video on the resurrection of Jesus

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.*

What was your favorite Easter tradition growing up? How about now?

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

Lord, teach us what You want us to receive about Your miraculous resurrection. Let it not just be a fact of history but a reality we live in constantly.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person read it aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together, so encourage everyone to meditate on these verses through the sermon series.*

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

[Ephesians 4:31-32]

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have someone read aloud Luke 7:36-50. If you like, you can have someone else read it in a different version. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage 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!

1. What does "vindication" mean to you? Is there a story or moment of vindication that comes to mind when you think of the word? *The dictionary definition of "vindicate" means to either clear someone of suspicion or prove that they were right or justified all along.*
2. How does the resurrection vindicate Jesus? *Quite simply, it proves that He is the Son of God. He wielded the power of God to resurrect others, but so did Elijah. God Himself raised Jesus and seated Him at His own right hand. Everything Jesus said was true. He is worthy, He is glorified, He is risen!*
3. What "verdicts" or "words" have been spoken over your life that greatly impacted it? *Answers may vary. People often pick up certain words in childhood indirectly—absorbing teaching about who they are, their role in the family, whether they're a burden, their bodies, and their destinies. Sometimes, the most random thing will stick with us for life.*
4. Were those verdicts true? What word of God is true that you can hold onto instead? *Sometimes, repentance isn't because we walked away from God. Sometimes, it's something we believed that is poison to us, and we need to come home to Jesus and walk differently. It is important when removing a lie, like deconstructing a brick wall and taking out infected bricks, that we replace it with truth from God. There may be a lie brought to light and confessed, but you're not sure what truth replaces it. Pray and ask God to reveal the truth about Himself!*
5. What verdicts had been made about the woman in this scripture? *Notorious. Sinner. Outcast. Rejected. Disgusting. Worthless. We see that those in charge had a big opinion about her presence. Those have a distinct sound to them: the accuser.*
6. How did Jesus see her? What was His verdict about who she was? *Worshipper. Daughter. Deserving peace. Delivered. This woman prophetically prepared Jesus for His burial, so... prophetess. Forgiven. Righteous. Saved.*
7. This is less directly stated, but how did Jesus see His host, Simon? *In every example Jesus says to her benefit, He begins with "You did not." Neglectful. Posturing? Playing host but not being hospitable. Simon needed to see Jesus for who He really is, to really prize and treasure Jesus. We don't see Jesus rushing to put a verdict on it, but the sign of Simon's life is not good.*
8. Have someone read Luke 19:1-10. What was Jesus' verdict on His host in these verses? *The contrast is stark. Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus with enthusiasm and joy. His repentance is obvious. And Jesus' verdict is that salvation has come to his house.*
9. Can Jesus come to your house but not salvation? If Jesus were to come to your house today, how would you host Him? *Lead this less toward a competition in being performatively spiritual and more toward getting rid of what needs to go for Jesus to be welcomed and how we can actually show our love for Him now. We can welcome strangers and feed them—that is welcoming Christ. We can give generously—that is welcoming Christ.*

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.

Let's get ready to host the resurrected Jesus **in our hearts**.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How can we want more OF Jesus, rather than wanting more FROM Jesus? 2) What is keeping you from being ready for more of Jesus in your life?

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 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!

"Lord, make us ready for more of You. Let us want You more than we want anything else. Put Your finger on things that are in the way, so we can let go of them and reach for You instead."