

# Group Discussion Guide: The Rest of the Story

**Easter 2026 Bottom Line:** A Resurrected King is a King worth following.

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## Icebreaker: The Big Reveal

Paul Harvey made a career out of "The Rest of the Story"—taking a common fact and revealing a surprising origin.

- **The Question:** Share a time in your life when you judged a book by its cover (a person, a job, or even a movie) only to find out later that "the rest of the story" was completely different than you expected. How did that change your perspective?
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## Part 1: The Small View of Jesus

On Palm Sunday, the crowds cheered for Jesus, but many were cheering for a version of Jesus they created in their own heads—a political revolutionary or a miracle-worker who would make their lives easy.

- **Read Matthew 21:6-11.**
  - The message noted that "everyone has a view of Jesus that is too small." In what ways do we sometimes try to "shrink" Jesus down to fit our own needs or expectations?
  - **Discussion:** When Jesus doesn't do what we expect (unanswered prayers, personal loss, difficult seasons), why is our first instinct often to reject Him rather than trust Him?
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## Part 2: The Character of the King

The most shocking part of the Easter story isn't just that Jesus died, but *how* He responded to the people who killed Him.

- **Read Luke 23:34.** \* Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of the people while they were actively mocking Him. How does this specific act change your understanding of His "worthiness" to be King?
  - **The Message Quote:** *"Despite our rejection of Him, Jesus doesn't reject us."* \* **Discussion:** Why is it so hard for us to accept a love that doesn't require us to "prove ourselves" first?
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### Part 3: The Resurrection Response

The resurrection is the "Rest of the Story" that changes everything. If the tomb is empty, Jesus isn't just a historical figure; He is a living authority.

- **Read Matthew 28:5-9.** \* When the women met the risen Jesus, they "took hold of his feet and worshiped him." This was a response of total submission.
  - **Discussion:** If we truly believe the resurrection happened, what is one area of your life (finances, relationships, anxiety, career) that should look different this week?
  - **Question:** Is there a difference between believing Jesus is *a* King and following Him as *your* King? What does that distinction look like in daily life?
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### Part 4: The Final Chapter

The story didn't end at the empty tomb. We are currently living in the "middle" of the story, waiting for the King's return.

- **Read Revelation 21:3-5.**
  - Which promise in this passage (no more tears, no more death, making all things new) do you find yourself clinging to most right now?
  - **Closing Thought:** Jesus is worthy of our surrender today because He is the only one who can actually deliver the ending promised in Revelation.
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### Prayer Focus

- **Acknowledge:** Spend a moment as a group declaring that Jesus is worthy.
- **Submit:** Ask God to help you release any "small" views of Him or unmet expectations that have caused you to keep Him at a distance.
- **Invite:** Pray for those in your lives who only know "part" of the story, that they would encounter the Risen King this season.