

# “Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

## Spring Life Groups | Week #7

### ICEBREAKER & INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome back to a new week of Relentless Circle Life Groups! Let's recap last week's challenge.

- **Share with the group how you have exercised the power of praise within the past week. For those who are completed last week's challenge, what things did you include in your “Playbook of Praise?”**
- *Those new to the group, please share how you found the group and what you hope to gain this season.*

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

Welcome to another week of Life Groups! This discussion is special because it sets up to experience Holy Week, the final days of Jesus' life before His death and resurrection. What is now a celebratory experience was one of the most difficult weeks of Jesus' ministry here on Earth. After his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, days later, He literally found himself between a rock and a hard place! Let's walk through Jesus' final days on earth, learn a few truths and prepare our hearts for Resurrection weekend. Let's get started!

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Luke 19:28-40 | Zech. 9:9-10**

**Additional Scripture:**

Philippians 4:8 | 2 Cor. 4:17

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Although His warm welcome in Jerusalem was nice, Jesus wasn't moved by the noise of the crowd. because He knew who he was. It would have been easy to get discouraged because the same people who cheered Him on eventually crucified Him. As believers, it is important that we not be moved by the opinions of others but be confident in who we are in Christ. **Tell of a time when you were “moved by the crowd” and found your identity in what others said about you rather than what God said about you. How were you impacted?**
- Jesus identifies with our desire to be known. In fact, He took His entire time on earth preaching the Kingdom and trying to get people to recognize His divinity. His entry to Jerusalem was one of the rare occasions when the crowd acknowledged Him as Messiah. But they still did not understand His true purpose. Jesus was not the king they wanted, but He was the king they needed. **Tell about a time when**

**you got something you didn't want, only to find out that it was exactly what you needed. What did you learn in hindsight?**

- **Read Zechariah 9:9-10. How does knowing that God may show up in unexpected ways tell you more about His character?**
- We can apply these same principles to our faith. God disciplines those He loves, so there is always a purpose in our pain. It is easy to praise God when things are going well and as planned. However, the true test of faith is when we praise Him beyond what we see and feel, despite our pain. The space between a rock and a hard place is where true faith is birthed! **Read Philippians 4:8 and 2 Cor. 4:17. If you find yourself between a rock and a hard place, how do these verses encourage you? Despite your discomfort, what praiseworthy things can you choose to think about?**

## CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Jesus endured death on a cross because He knew the result would far outweigh any pain He could experience. So, if you find yourself feeling pressed and your faith being challenged, don't fight it, embrace it! The pain you are going through is producing greatness inside of you. There is a weight that will be added to your life, to your story that will be used to bring God the glory! Don't give up, keep praising, keep going, keep obeying God, and watch things change. The rock and the hard place are temporary, but the testimony you will have at the end of the pain will be eternal!

### Challenge:

Take the next few days to take self-inventory. What areas of pain are you experiencing (Relational, financial, spiritual, etc.) that seem beyond your understanding? These are perfect opportunities to surrender control and allow Christ to do His perfect work in you. Invite Him into this area and watch Him show up! Use this prayer as a template:

Dear Lord, I thank you Lord that you prune those whom you love, so even though it seems bleak in the area of **(Insert your current area of pain)**. I know that there is a purpose in my pain. Thank you for instructing me, correcting me, and teaching me to be more like you during this process. I lay down my personal comfort zones and give you full access to this and every area of my life. Thank you for your love and for using this experience to develop my faith in you. Despite what I am going through, I choose to praise you! May you be glorified in and through my life!

### Reminders:

- **Life Group Surveys are here!** We want to know how you've enjoyed your Circle Squad so far. Visit the Life Group page on the Relentless Church App or website to complete this season's group survey. Thanks in advance for your feedback!
- **Save the Date for the Life Group Meet & Greet on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** - Join us after service to meet some of the other people who love Life Groups. This is a perfect event for someone who wants more information on how to facilitate a group and to meet other Circle Squad members. RSVP online at [www.ourrelentlesschurch.com/events!](http://www.ourrelentlesschurch.com/events!)
- **Resurrection Sunday at Relentless is THIS WEEKEND!** Service Times are Saturday @ 5 pm and Sunday at 8:30 and 11 am. We are expecting big numbers, so be sure to arrive early!