



John 12:24-25 (The Message) Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life.

Read Matthew 20:20-28

Acts 1:3-7 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Then they gathered around him and asked him, “**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Galatians 5:4-6 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Icebreaker

Conversation Starters

1. **Read John 12:24-25 above together.** What are some examples of holding on to life just as if is? Why do you think Jesus says by holding on we actually destroy our life?
2. Why do you think Jesus used the everyday ordinary rhythm of death and resurrection a seed or grain of wheat must experience to prepare his disciples for his coming death and resurrection?
3. **Looking back at your life are you able to identify a few death and resurrection rhythms you have been through? Are you willing to share one with the group?**
4. **Read Matthew 20:20-28 together.** What stands out most for you in this story?
5. **Read Acts 1:3-7 together.** What had to die for Jesus' disciples in order for them to become his witnesses? Where do you most connect with his disciples manmade image of God? What would get resurrected in place of your man made image of God?
6. **Read Galatians 5:4-6 together.** Using your imagination, what do you think the ancient middle eastern people in Galatia thought Paul meant when he said, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”?

7. Find a point in nature to observe the death and resurrection cycle this spring. Share it with your group next week.