

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS
for the Week of May 11, 2025**

The Risen Life
Bleach, Teach, Reach – Mother’s Day

1. I realize not all people have had a good experience with their mom relationship and I realize that some never had a mom, both of which are very difficult circumstances. If you have had either of those experiences growing up, I am sorry and pray the Risen One would heal those wounds and restore the hope found in Him! Though sometimes it is very difficult to understand, feel, and believe...the Lord was and is always there for each of us. He is the source of our hope and He is the sustainer of that hope. In my case, my mom was certainly not perfect, but, I have some terrific memories. My mom kept everything clean, (the house always had a bleach and/or Pine-Sol smell, we referred to her as “Teresa Tidy”), she taught us things without us realizing she was teaching, and she was able to reach out through her music to kids and grown-ups alike. What memories do you have from your mom and/or your mom-type relationships?
2. **Read Romans 15:13.** We often speak of hope. Where does it come from, how can I muster it, who can really have hope in our culture today? How can any of us live a Risen Life? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word *hope*?
3. Can God use anything/anyone He wants to give us hope? Why is it that we, so often, look to people, situations, times, for hope?
4. The Apostle Paul’s prayer from Romans 15:13 reveals many essential elements of hope. Reading the NIV translation of the Bible, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace *as you trust in him*,” the ESV translation “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace *in believing*.” The Risen Christ is the source of hope! What happens *as we trust in him / believe*?

5. Oh how this world needs to be filled with ALL joy and peace! How can we do our part to share this joy and peace? Do you know this joy and peace?
6. To live a *Risen Life* we must know the RISEN ONE! If we know Jesus as Lord and Savior then we have His Holy Spirit in us, (John 14:15-21, 26, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 6:19). We cannot “overflow with hope” in our own strength...it is only possible by “the power of the Holy Spirit.” The pressure is off, it is all about Jesus...the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in you! (Romans 8:11) Would you agree that society is struggling to find hope? Do you think Christians struggle to know that the Holy Spirit dwells within them?
7. God can use anyone, anytime, anyway, to draw people to Himself including a mom. Again, realizing that mom’s aren’t perfect, many of us still experienced the fruit of the Holy Spirit through them. Love, joy, peace, patience (forbearance), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control are the fruit that is produced by the Holy Spirit, (Galatians 5:22). Do you think your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, random acquaintances, would say they see/experience the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life?
8. From my life experience of my mom’s cleaning, I am reminded how the Lord cleanses us from sin by His blood not by man-made bleach, (Revelation 1:5). As my mom would teach consistent lessons, they became a part of me, and ultimately, that is one of the ways I came to know and follow Jesus, (Proverbs 22:6). Through the beautiful gift of music the Lord gave to my mom, I was reached by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. I now realize the Lord produced that fruit and He reached me through His gifts working through my mom as she was receptive to Him. The hope He gives that fills us with all joy and peace as we believe the Risen One, let’s us live a fruitful Risen Life! How are you experiencing the Risen Life?