

The Resurrection

Key Scriptures

Matt 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24, & John 20

1 Cor. 15:12-20 ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Acts 2:23-24 ²³ "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Key Point:

"Everything is needful that He sends, and nothing can be needful that He withholds." (John Newton)

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the most unusual thing you have eaten for an Easter meal?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

Choose one or two of the following passages to read through as a group before you go through the questions. Matt 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24, or John 20.

- What were the moods and reactions of the characters in the account that you read? Were there things you remember happening that were not mentioned by the Gospel that you read?
- Can you be a Christian and not believe in the resurrection of Christ? (1 Cor 15:1-4)
- Would it make any difference if Jesus did not rise from the dead physically?
- In 1 Cor. 15:19 Paul makes an extremely strong statement. Why do you think he says it?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Kyle shared that the resurrection has practical meaning in the life of Christians, specifically regarding the idea of freedom:
 1. Freedom from guilt and fear (1 Cor. 15:17)
 2. Freedom from fear of death (Heb. 2:14-15, 1 Cor. 15:23-26)
 3. Freedom from "powers and authorities" that might try to enslave us (idolatry) (Col 2:12-15)Before this, have you ever thought about how the resurrection provided strength for everyday living? Can you think of any other ways the resurrection of Christ impacts us?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- It's a wonderful thing that we know Jesus rose from the dead. Be purposeful in thinking about specific ways that the resurrection can and should impact you. If/when you are worried about death, or feel guilty about your past, take time to rehearse the gift of the resurrection.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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