

## The Transforming Power of the Resurrection

### Key Scriptures

1 Cor. 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Acts 3:15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Acts 4:32-35 <sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 5:30-32 <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Romans 4:25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

**Key Point:** The resurrection of Jesus wasn't just something that happened in history, it is the transforming power of God to those who believe His gospel.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What was the best spring break you have had?

**Start thinking:** Choose questions to get your group thinking.

- (Optional) As a group, read through Luke 24 together (take turns reading). What observations do you have about both Jesus raising from the dead, and the reactions that others have toward Him?
- In 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, Why does Paul say what he says? What are the consequences if the resurrection is not true?
- What is the context of Acts 5:29-33, and what does it tell us about the change that happened in the Apostles demeanor in comparison to before Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and birth of the church?
- The resurrection is a core part of our theology. According to the following passages, what does Jesus' resurrection do for believers? (Romans 4:24-25, 6:9, 7:4, 8:11, 1 Cor 6:14, Col 3:1-3, 1 Thess 1:10)

**Start sharing:** Questions to create openness.

- Here are a few places where Jesus predicted his death and resurrection. (**Matt** 12:40, 16:21, 17:23, 20:17-19, 27:63, **Mark** 9:9, 9:31-32, 10:32-43, **Luke** 9:30-31, 24:6-7, **John** 2:19, 10:14-18, 11:25-26, 14:19, 16:16-22). Why do you think the disciples didn't understand, seemed to forget, and found it difficult to believe, even after Jesus rose from the dead?
- If the resurrection is such a big deal in Christianity, why do you think some Christians don't think or talk about it very often? How often do you think about it and talk about it with others?
- Look at how the early church was transformed because of faith in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:32, 41-47; 5:30-32) Do you see any similarities in the early church with the church of today's world? What is similar? What is different?

**Start doing:**

- We all need to keep the resurrection of Jesus Christ on our mind as we go through life. But what will you do to be more assured of the resurrection and its impact in your life.

**Prayer Requests:** Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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