

The Resurrection

Key Scriptures:

1 Cor. 15:17-20, ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is useless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Furthermore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ For if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we should be pitied more than anyone. ²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Matthew 12:38-40 (cf. 16:4) ³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." ³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

John 2:18-22 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²² Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Matt. 27:62-66 ⁶² On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Revelation 1:18 I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore...

Key Point: The resurrection changes everything. It guarantees our forgiveness, empowers us to change, and gives us a hope for the future.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever had an experience that completely changed how you saw the world?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- Why does Paul state so strongly in 1 Cor 15 that Christianity rests on the resurrection?
- Why is it so important that Jesus predicted His resurrection before it happened? (see also Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34)
- What were the four pieces of evidence for the resurrection presented in Sunday's message?
- Why did the chief priests & Pharisees want Jesus' tomb guarded? If they had not made such an effort to have the tomb secured, how would that have impacted the case for the resurrection?
- Do you think the disciples would have been able to steal the body?
- (Matt 28:11-15) Why is it significant that Jesus' enemies tried to cover up the resurrection?
- Who are those who saw Jesus after He rose from the grave? (1 Cor 15:5-8, Matt 28:8-9) Why do you think the first person Jesus wanted to show Himself to after the resurrection, was a woman?
- Why is it powerful that the disciples were willing to die for what they believed? Would you be willing to die for something you knew was a lie? Why or why not?
- How does Jesus' resurrection give us assurance of forgiveness and eternal life? (Rom 4:25, 6:4, 7:4, 2 Cor 4:14)

Start doing: Identify one way the resurrection changes your outlook on life right now—whether it's hope for the future, freedom from sin, or courage in difficulty—and share it with the group next time.

Prayer Requests. Pray for boldness to share the truth of the resurrection this week. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

-
-
-