

EASTER SUNDAY

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Describe an experience you really enjoyed from this past Easter weekend.
 - Who's a memorable antagonist from a TV show or movie you've watched? What about them seemed so intimidating?
 - Do you think you have to believe that people can rise from the dead after this life to be a Christian? Why or why not?
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TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

On Easter, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because resurrections don't typically happen, some say the resurrection can be taken as a metaphor. Or maybe you can follow the Christian moral teachings without having to believe in a supernatural event like the resurrection. This is what was happening with some of the Corinthian disciples. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul explains to them why there's no true Christianity without resurrection.

THE GOSPEL OF RESURRECTION

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-7

DISCUSS: Why do you think these verses mean resurrection is a really big deal?

Here's what Paul says is "of first importance" in the gospel: Christ died, was buried, and was raised on the third day. This confronted the take-it-or-leave-it attitude some Corinthians had toward the resurrection. The gospel is what holds up the Christian faith, so removing the resurrection is like removing one of three pillars – everything else collapses. Christianity isn't a moral code, an ideology, or a myth; it's belief in an event in history where resurrection happened.

THE LAST ENEMY

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

DISCUSS: Why is it pitiable to believe in Jesus if resurrection is just a myth?

Later in this chapter, Paul calls death "the last enemy." Even if we experience victory over some of life's obvious enemies – poverty, loneliness, depression, sickness, anxiety – death eventually comes calling. If the last enemy still stands, our greatest victories don't mean much in the end. A couple decades of victory is a small victory. Paul's right – it's pitiable and deluded to believe in Jesus if he didn't do anything about our greatest enemy.

GRACE *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

FINAL VICTORY

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:20, 51-57

DISCUSS: What stands out to you in these verses and why is it really good news?

If Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection, we are the second. When he returns, the dead will be raised, and Jesus will send all sin out of the renewed creation. The only reason the enemy of death is in God's world to begin with is because of sin, through the disobedience of our first parents. Because sin will die, death will die. And those who've trusted in the resurrection of Jesus will live with resurrected, imperishable bodies with him forever.

CHANGE *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What has your attitude toward resurrection been in the past? How have Paul's words changed it?
- Is there anything from Paul's teaching about resurrection that seems confusing or unclear to you?
- Read verse 58. How can you put Paul's instructions into practice in your life?

PRAYER *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Paul tells us to be steadfast in light of the promise of resurrection. Pray for endurance in faithfulness.
- In some of the very last words of the Bible, the writer John proclaims, "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!" Pray for the return of Jesus and the restoration of our world.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?