

Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one “comeback” story that you find particularly memorable or inspiring?
2. Are there any contexts in which you like to be surprised? Explain.

Read the following passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

The resurrection was the pivotal component in the set of events that defined the early church (the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost). The resurrection changed everything. When we embrace the reality and ramifications of the resurrection, it can become a defining event in our lives as well.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you think the Christian faith would have ever gotten off the ground if Jesus had not been raised from the dead? Explain.
2. What are some of the ways that becoming a Jesus-follower complicated a person’s life in the first century? What might it cost a person to follow Jesus today?
3. How would you respond to the following objections to the historical reality of the resurrection?
 - *The resurrection is just a legend that developed after all the apostles died.*
 - *The apostles stole the body and invented the story of the resurrection themselves.*
 - *In their grief, the apostles had visions of Jesus, like some people do after they lose a loved one, and concluded that Jesus was raised from the dead.*
 - *I don’t know what happened, but people just do not get raised from the dead. Science proves that.*
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-18. How did Paul describe his experience of being an apostle for Christ? How did the resurrection help Paul and how can it help us?
5. Are you confident that Jesus was raised from the dead? If so, do think this reality is practically impacting how you live your life in the present? Explain.

Pray