

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

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. Who is your oldest living relative? How long do you hope to live?
2. If you could relive and re-enjoy one favorite day of your life all over again, which one would you choose?

Read the following passage: Read Luke 24:1-10.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are the most important events in human history. The resurrection has profound ramifications for the mind and the body, the present and the future, our psychological world and our spiritual world.

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

1. In Acts 17:31, Paul tells a group of Athenians that Jesus' resurrection is the confirmation of the message of the Gospel. What might you say to someone who doubted that the resurrection actually took place? Can we make a historical case for the resurrection of Jesus? Explain.
2. What helps you when you have doubts about God or the Christian faith?
3. Read Romans 8:10-11, 22-24. What is God's plan for our bodies? What should our attitude toward the body be in the present?
4. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from a prison cell. A death sentence was a very real possibility. Read Philippians 1:20-24. What was Paul's attitude toward death? What is your own attitude toward death? How might our view of the afterlife affect how we live in the present? Compare 1 Corinthians 15:30-32.
5. Whether consciously or subconsciously, many of us wrestle with the question "Will I ever be accepted?" We wonder if we are smart enough, interesting enough, strong enough, or beautiful enough. Every day we have to prove all over again that we are worthy of acceptance, honor, and celebration. During the final hours of Jesus' life, he experienced what was effectively our worst nightmare. He was mocked, shamed, beaten, screamed at, exposed, and left to die. The actions of the Jewish leadership and Roman authorities were intended to communicate that Jesus was a fool, a failure, and a fraud. There was not a worse death possible for a Jewish man in the first century. The resurrection was God's dramatic proclamation that Jesus was in the right, that his obedience was perfect, that his vicarious suffering on behalf of his people was sufficient for their forgiveness and salvation, and that Jesus was worthy of the highest honor and praise. (See, for example, Philippians 2:5-11.) The result of Jesus' perfect suffering and resurrection is our deliverance from all condemnation. See Romans 4:25 and 8:1. How does our identification with Jesus in his death and resurrection help us address the question, "Will I ever be accepted?" How can we

lean on Jesus' death and resurrection when we feel anxious, insecure, or rejected?

6. Read Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:4-7. What is Jesus' relationship to all other unseen spiritual powers? Why is this significant to us? What should we do if we think we are being tormented by evil spiritual entities?
7. What is one way you can lean on the reality of Jesus' resurrection this week?

Pray