

RESURRECTION of Christ

Introduction: Over the next three weeks, we will be unpacking the beautiful simplicity and yet incredible depth of the gospel. The term “gospel” can become so familiar, it sometimes loses its meaning for us. We are going to take some time to remember the gospel, the good news, that we believe and on which we build our lives.

Icebreaker: If you had to give a TED talk, what would it be on?

Worship:

Firm Foundation | Maverick City Music

Jesus Paid it All | Kristian Stanfill

Thank you for the Blood | Charity Gayle

Discussion:

1. Have a few people, in their own words, answer this question: “What is the gospel?”
2. Read **I Corinthians 15:1-11** together.
3. Based on this passage, would anything change in your definition of the gospel?
4. In verse one, Paul is reminding the Corinthian church of the gospel that he preached to them. Why is it important to remember the gospel that you have responded to? What does it look like to “take your stand” on this gospel?
5. Has there been a time in your life that has caused you to doubt the gospel? Ask a few people to share, if they are willing, what caused them to question what they believe and what brought them out of unbelief.
6. Ask people to internally respond to this question: “On a scale of 1-10, how firm are you in the gospel?” Now, think about what would cause you to question the gospel. What could shake your faith or cause you to not “hold firmly to the word.”
 - **Leader’s Note:** *Invite people to open up and share, keeping in mind to pastor people well in this process, listening and affirming people’s journeys. Encourage everyone to search their own hearts, not judging someone else for doubt or questions. This is not a time to give advice or counsel, but to listen. Ultimately, we are trying to get people to anchor deeper into their faith by challenging them to consider if anything could cause them to not stand firm in their belief in the gospel.*

RESURRECTION of Christ

7. Read Romans 10:8b-13 “...The message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

- *Invite people to respond to the gospel. It’s easy to assume that because people have come to church/Lifegroup, that they have already made this decision. They may have heard the gospel hundreds of times, but haven’t made a personal decision to “take their stand” on this gospel.*

Read Together: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic* and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(*The small “c” means “worldwide” or “universal”)

Prayer:

Divide into small groups and pray for one another. Encourage anyone with questions about the gospel or ones who want to make a decision to put their faith in Christ to talk and pray together in their group.

Resources:

The Case for Christ, by Lee Strobel

RESURRECTION

of God's people

Introduction: This week we will continue looking at I Corinthians 15 as we take a look at the vital importance of believing in the resurrection. We'll also look at the importance of being united with Christ in his death so that we experience resurrection from sin into freedom.

Icebreaker: If you could invent a new holiday, what would it be and what would you call it?

Worship:

His Name is Jesus | Jeremy Riddle

A Thousand Hallelujahs | Brooke Ligertwood

Gratitude | Brandon Lake

Discussion:

1. Read **I Corinthians 15:12-34**.
2. Based on these verses, what are the implications of not believing that Jesus was raised from the dead?
3. If you take away the resurrection (of Christ and therefore, believers) from our faith, what are you left with? Is Christianity worthwhile if all that is left is good morals?
4. In the Corinthian church, there was a false teaching circulating that people were not raised from the dead, hence why Paul needed to remind them of the full gospel which they had received. What false teachings do you see coming against the gospel today, even in the church?
5. Read **Romans 6:1-14** together.
6. What does this passage teach us about baptism and the reality it represents, not just of a future hope of resurrection but a present-day death and resurrection from sin into new life?
7. If you have been united with Christ in his death (through baptism), what is your relationship now to sin? Talk about what our relationship with sin tends to be if we don't consider ourselves dead to it.
8. What does it look like to "offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness?"

Prayer:

Divide into small groups and pray for one another. Take time to confess any sin to one another and share what may be keeping you from considering yourself "dead to sin." Pray for one another that you would have greater revelation of your freedom from sin and how you can offer yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.

RESURRECTION of God's people

Note to leaders: As you are reading the passage from I Corinthians 15, people may get hung up on verse 29. We encourage you to not get sidetracked, but if it becomes necessary to address, here's an excerpt from Chuck Smith's commentary that you may find helpful. Find the complete commentary on blueletterbible.org.

Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead? (1Cr 15:29)

This is the only place in scripture where baptism for the dead is mentioned. It is mentioned in an argument against the argument that there is no resurrection from the dead. Now, the people in Corinth, as I said, were a mess. They had all kinds of problems: carnality and divisions. They had all kinds of mixed up beliefs and doctrines, and this epistle is known as a corrective epistle in that he was correcting all of the problems that existed in Corinth.

Evidently, in Corinth there were those in the church who were being baptized for the dead. There is no condemnation of the practice here, nor is there any commendation for the practice. It's only brought up that they were doing it, but Paul was pointing out that it is totally inconsistent. "Can't you see, you dummies, if there is no resurrection from the dead, then this practice you have of baptizing for the dead... why do you do that if the they dead don't rise? If there is no resurrection from the dead." And he is just showing to them that their inconsistent practices were inconsistent with their beliefs.

RESURRECTION to come

Introduction: This week we will finish looking at I Corinthians 15 as we look at the death of the natural body and the hope of the resurrection to come of our heavenly bodies.

Icebreaker: What's a book that affected you so profoundly (emotionally or intellectually) that you still regularly think about it?

Worship:

Glorious Day | Passion

Your Love Never Fails | Jesus Culture

Revelation Song | Kari Jobe

Discussion:

1. Have you experienced the loss of a loved one? How has that impacted your perspective of death and life? (Ask if anyone has a different perspective if they lost someone before coming to Christ vs after knowing Christ.)

2. Read **I Corinthians 1:35-58**.

3. Paul gives a comparison of the differences between our earthly and heavenly bodies. Read through the verses & chart the differences between the two bodies. *You may want to hand out pieces of paper so everyone can write down their list. Here's an example:*

<u>Earthly body</u>	<u>Heavenly Body</u>
Perishable	Imperishable
Dishonor	Glory
Weakness	Power
Natural	Spiritual
Dust of the earth	Of heaven

4. How does the mystery that “we will all be changed” impact your life now?

5. Read **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**. What stands out to you in this passage about our earthly and heavenly bodies?

6. Since we “walk by faith and not by sight,” how do these two passages that we’ve read today impact your faith?

7. Read these verses again: **I Corinthians 15:58** and **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**. What’s our responsibility for how we should live in our earthly body? How do you see what we do in our earthly body impacting eternity?

8. Take a moment and ask everyone to think about a takeaway from your discussion today or the last couple of weeks on resurrection. Ask people to share a revelation they have learned through this study and how they want to respond to it.

Prayer: Divide into small groups and pray for one another. If people didn’t have a chance to share a personal revelation in the larger group, ask them to share one with their small group. Confess any place where you have been tempted to walk by sight (things you experience in your earthly body) and where you need to choose to walk by faith again.