

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Easter: What will you do with the resurrection?

INTRODUCTION

LEADER NOTES: *This is simply a guide to help discussion about the Scripture that was preached over the weekend. You are not bound to it. Ultimately our hope is that God in His infinite grace would transform our heart to look more like Jesus and fall more in love with Jesus. We should always be in prayer that God would do this every time we meet as a community. So, if God redirects your group's time away from the Community Group Guide that is great. Please do not abandon a fruitful conversation for the sake of getting all the questions answered.*

This week during our celebration of Easter we looked at the Resurrection of Christ. The Scriptures show us that once we see that Christ has been raised we have two options: reject Him or worship Him. In this study guide we are going to take a closer look at the importance of the resurrection in Paul's letter to the Corinthian church.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

LEADER NOTES: *These questions are here to help your group get their minds re-engaged with the passage and teaching points from the weekend message. Think of this as "priming the pump" for a more interactive discussion in your time together. Don't feel the need to answer all of these.*

1. When think of Easter, what typically comes to mind?
2. What impacted you the most about the sermon this weekend?
3. Was there anything that you heard that you had never heard before?

INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

LEADER NOTES: *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

Observation

1. According to Paul, what is “of first importance” in the Gospel?
 - a. 1 Cor 15:3-7 - “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”
2. What are some of the things Paul points to as proof of the resurrection?
 - a. 1 Cor 15:5-7 - He appeared to over 500 people, including Paul

Interpretation

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be the “firstfruits” of those who have fallen asleep?
 - a. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we will all be raised from the dead as well.
2. Why is the resurrection important according to Paul and what does it guarantee?
 - a. 1 Cor 15:12-19 - Because it is the assurance that we will have life after death as well. Christ’s resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Not only that, his resurrection assures us he has defeated the power of sin. That means we can have confidence we will not be defeated by it either! Sin doesn’t rule over us!

- b. That those who follow Him will one day be raised (1 Cor 15:20, 23)
- 3. Why are we to be “pitied” if Christ has not been raised?
 - a. Our lives are meant to be centered around and poured out for Jesus. If HE has not been raised, then our whole lives have been rooted in a lie.
- 4. Paul sees Jesus’ resurrection as reversing Adam’s curse. How is this possible?
 - a. Adam’s sin brought sin into the world and into the lives of everyone. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead defeated sin and death. The curse that came through Adam has been destroyed. Jesus brought new life through His resurrection.

Application

- 1. Why is it important to remember and celebrate the resurrection?
- 2. What does it look like to live as a Christian in the hope of the resurrection?
 - a. We walk in joy, free from fear, knowing that just as Christ was raised, we will also be raised.
- 3. What areas of your life would change if you lived in hope of the resurrection?

PRAYER

LEADER NOTES: *The following is designed simply as an outline for you to use in your group prayer time. Feel free to make this your own and adjust it to fit your group.*

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

Psalm 20:6-8 - “Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.”

God alone is our salvation and our strength. We do not need to trust in anything but our King. He is mighty to save and worthy to be praised. With this hope in mind, pray for:

1. The family of Mercy Church to grow in their trust in God's salvation.
2. The reality of the resurrection to be on the forefront of our minds as we minister in this world.
3. The people of Charlotte to come to know the saving grace of Christ.

