

LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

[Spring Season: April 12 – June 14 | Fall Season: September 27 – December 6]

LEADER DETAILS

- **MAIN TEXT:** I Corinthians 15:35-58
- **MAIN IDEA:** The resurrection gives us a future hope and a present purpose.
- **GROWTH FOCUS:** Help your group grow in transparency by modeling it at some point in the discussion.
- **ICEBREAKER:** “What’s something you learned—about science, history, or the world—that totally surprised you but turned out to be true?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Full details at: emergence.church/digital-bulletin)

- **Totowa is in the Temporary Auditorium!** - Be sure to pray that God does even more than we ask or imagine in this new space! **Keep updated on changes here:** <https://emergence.church/totowa-updates>
- **eKids Grand Opening (Totowa) - This Weekend - April 23/26**
 - This weekend, we are hoping to open the brand-new kids ministry space at our Totowa Campus! Let’s join in praying that this space will be used to raise up the next generation of Christ Followers!
- **Caring For Ringwood Day (Ringwood) Saturday - April 25 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**
 - The Ringwood Campus will be coming alongside the Town of Ringwood for their annual street clean up, serving in the name of Jesus! Check out the digital bulletin for more info!

GETTING STARTED:

- **Pray:** This helps everyone prepare their heads and hearts as you turn to the discussion.
 - **Watch Community Extras Video** (length 5:09 – questions from video are included below)
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LAST WEEK’S GROWTH STEP FOLLOW-UP:

[Leaders: These follow-ups are meant to offer some accountability while being low-pressure. Keep it casual, “If you were able to try this last week, how did it go?” Sharing is optional; it’s always okay to pass.]

- **Outward Action:** Take one visible step of faith this week, especially in an area where you’ve been hesitant or playing it safe (invite someone, confess sin, serve, give, share your faith, etc.).
 - **Inward Prayer:** Ask God to help you not just believe in the resurrection, but live like it’s true.
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SERMON DISCUSSION

Prioritize meaningful conversation over getting through every question.

A Final Objection Answered

Read I Corinthians 15:35-44

Pastor Ryan sums up the objection Paul mentions as “*How is resurrection even possible?*”. Paul points to something we see all the time: seeds go into the ground, “die,” and come out transformed into something new. His point is simple: resurrection isn’t random or irrational; it actually lines up with how God has already designed the world to work. Ryan pointed out that the question isn’t the problem, but if we are approaching it with pride, or humility.

- Paul points to everyday examples (like seeds) to explain resurrection. What helps make this concept more understandable for you?
- Where do you tend to approach God more with skepticism and pride, rather than humility?

In Adam vs. In Christ

Read I Corinthians 15:45-50

Pastor Ryan pointed out that we are born “in Adam,” meaning sin isn’t just something we do, it’s something intrinsic to our nature. Jesus came as the “last Adam,” completely sinless, to offer Himself for our sin so we could be made new. The reality is, we don’t earn this new life, but we receive it by humbly admitting our need and trusting in Him. Without that, we remain in Adam and cannot enter the kingdom of God. We need to be born again through faith.

- In your own words, what is Paul saying here? Where might you need more explanation?
- Where in your life are you most tempted to try to fix yourself instead of bringing your need to Jesus, and what would it look like to actually surrender that?

A Real Hope

Read I Corinthians 15:51-57

Paul shifts from making the case for the resurrection to what it actually means for us who trust in Christ. Because Jesus rose, death has been completely defeated. Its “sting” is gone. What once felt like the ultimate enemy has been reduced to a doorway (or as Ryan put it, an Uber ride) into glory. For those in Christ, the final word isn’t death but life, not defeat but victory. This gives us a real, unshakable hope - even in the face of death itself.

- How does the resurrection change the way a Christian views death compared to the world?
- Pastor Ryan described death as more of a “vehicle to glory” than a defeat. How does that perspective challenge or encourage you?

A Real Purpose

Read I Corinthians 15:58

Pastor Ryan shared that the resurrection doesn't just give us hope for the future, but it gives real purpose to our lives right now. Because Jesus is risen, nothing we do for Him is wasted. The world chases things that won't last, but every act of faith, every investment in people, every step of obedience in Christ carries eternal weight that is never wasted. Because of the resurrection, we can trust that what we do for Christ will echo far beyond this moment.

- According to verse 58, how does Paul describe the way we should live in light of the resurrection?
- Have you ever been discouraged in ministry and felt like it was in vain? Why did that happen? What were you focused on rather than the resurrection, eternal life, and things that really mattered? (Video)
- Who is one person or area of life where God may be inviting you to invest more intentionally right now?

GROWTH STEP THIS WEEK

- **Outward Action:** Take one step to invest in someone spiritually this week (encourage them, pray with them, invite them, etc.)
- **Inward Prayer:** Ask God to help you live with an eternal perspective, rather than a temporary one.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Thank God for victory over sin and death through Jesus
- Ask for deeper faith in the reality of the resurrection
- Pray for ways to share the hope of Jesus with others
- Ask God to show you how to live for things that have an eternal purpose

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT: Judges Chapters 1 and 2