

# Wednesday Night Youth Lesson

## The Resurrection Is Essential

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:1–8 (BSB)

**Big Idea:** If Jesus did not physically rise from the dead, Christianity is false—but because He did rise, the gospel is true and our faith is secure.

### Lesson Flow (30 Minutes)

1. **Opening Illustration & Introduction** – 5 min
2. **Reading the Passage** – 4 min
3. **Passage Commentary** – 13 min
4. **Discussion Questions** – 6 min
5. **Closing Application & Gospel Call** – 2 min

### 1. Opening Illustration & Introduction (5 minutes)

**Illustration:**

Ask students:

- “What happens if the foundation of a building is weak?”
- “Would you trust a bridge if you knew it might collapse?”

Explain:

Some people treat the resurrection like an extra belief—but Paul says it is the **foundation** of Christianity. Remove it, and everything falls apart.

Set the focus:

The resurrection is not just something Christians believe—it is **why** Christianity exists.

### 2. Read the Passage (4 minutes)

Have students read **1 Corinthians 15:1–8 (BSB)** aloud.

Highlight key verses:

### **1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (BSB)**

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Explain:

- Paul calls this message “**of first importance**”
- The resurrection is part of the gospel itself

## **3. Passage Commentary (13 minutes)**

### **A. The Gospel Is Something to Receive and Stand On (vv. 1–2)**

Explain:

- The gospel was preached
- The Corinthians received it
- They stand firm in it

Important warning:

Believing the gospel halfway—or changing it—means believing in vain.

Student clarity:

Christianity is not about feelings—it is about truth.

### **B. The Resurrection Is Part of God’s Plan (vv. 3–4)**

Key phrase:

- “**According to the Scriptures**”

Explain:

- Jesus’ death and resurrection were foretold
- This was not an accident or legend

- God planned redemption

Key truth:

A dead Savior cannot save—but a risen Savior guarantees forgiveness.

### **C. The Resurrection Was Physical and Historical (vv. 5–8)**

Explain:

- Jesus appeared to real people
- Individuals and large groups
- Many witnesses were still alive

Illustration:

This is like saying, “Go ask them—they saw Him.”

Key point:

Christianity is rooted in real history, not myths.

### **D. Why the Resurrection Is Essential (Summary Point)**

Explain simply:

- Without the resurrection:
  - Sin is not defeated
  - Death wins
  - Faith is empty

But because Jesus rose:

- God accepted His sacrifice
- Jesus is Lord
- Eternal life is real

## **4. Discussion Questions (6 minutes)**

Use several:

1. Why do people struggle with believing in the resurrection?
2. Why is it important that Jesus rose physically, not just “spiritually”?
3. How does the resurrection give confidence in forgiveness?
4. What would Christianity look like if Jesus stayed dead?
5. How should the resurrection affect how we live now?

Encourage students to answer from the passage.

## **5. Closing Application & Gospel Call (2 minutes)**

### **Gospel Clarity:**

Explain:

Jesus died for sins—but His resurrection proves the payment was accepted.

Make it personal:

- A risen Christ means real hope
- Real forgiveness
- Real victory over death

### **Final Challenge:**

Ask:

- “Are you trusting in a living Savior—or just ideas about Him?”

Close with this truth:

The resurrection is not just something Jesus did—it is the reason we can be saved.

### **Final Takeaway for Students:**

**If Jesus did not rise, nothing matters—but because He did, everything changes.**