Session 12

Resurrection LIFE

CENTRAL TRUTH | The resurrection of Jesus is essential to the good news.

To really understand a story, you need to start at the beginning. Think about it: What happens if you go over to a friend's house and start watching a show where your friend is already on the second episode? You'd probably be lost, and your friend might even have to pause it to explain what's going on or start over so you can see the whole thing for yourself. Understanding a story means reading or watching from start to finish, giving it your full attention as you do—not scrolling, texting, or talking through the whole thing. Because if you're not focused on the story, you'll miss important moments. The gospel is the most important story we'll ever read or hear, and the apostle Paul knew that. So, he wrote to the Christians in Corinth, reminding them of an important part of the gospel that He didn't want them to miss: the resurrection of Jesus. The truth of the resurrection is essential to our faith and to the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

Explore SCRIPTURE

Memorize 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

3 For I passed on to you as most important
what I also received: that Christ died for our
sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he
was buried, that he was raised on the third
day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that
he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.
6 Then he appeared to over five hundred
brothers and sisters at one time; most of
them are still alive, but some have fallen
asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to
all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one born at
the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-11

9 For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy
to be called an apostle, because I persecuted
the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God
I am what I am, and his grace toward me was
not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder
than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of
God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it
is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have
believed.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from
the dead, how can some of you say, "There
is no resurrection of the dead"? 13 If there is
no resurrection of the dead, then not even
Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not
been raised, then our proclamation is in vain,
and so is your faith. 15 Moreover, we are found
to be false witnesses about God, because
we have testified wrongly about God that he
raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up,
if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the
dead are not raised, not even Christ has been
raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is worthless; you are still in your
sins. 18 Those, then, who have fallen asleep in
Christ have also perished. 19 If we have put our
hope in Christ for this life only, we should be
pitied more than anyone.

Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

Day 01

JOHN 11:25-26

READ & RESPOND

When Lazarus died, his sister, Martha, confronted Jesus upon His return. She believed that if Jesus had come when she called, her brother would have been healed and still be alive. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life." What Martha failed to realize is that death was not an obstacle to Him. He is the source of both resurrection and life. There is no resurrection nor eternal life apart from Christ. The resurrection isn't an event, but a Person. Jesus is Life, which He displayed by raising Lazarus from the dead. We will study Jesus's resurrection three days after His death on the cross, but it is essential that you realize that we aren't studying an event. We're studying the Person—*the Resurrection* and *the Life*.

What exactly does Jesus claim He has the power to do?

What does this passage tell us about Jesus's authority over death?

How does knowing your friends have an eternal future change how you treat them today?

MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the source of life. Help me trust that because You conquered death, You are in control of my biggest fears. May my life reflect the hope of Your eternal promise today.

Day 02

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

READ & RESPOND

Paul summed up the entire gospel in today's passage: Christ died for our sin, was buried, and rose three days later—just like He said He would in Scripture. Paul then clarified for any skeptics that Jesus appeared to many people: the apostles, a large group of followers, and even Paul. Jesus died—many saw that happen. But the most important part was that He resurrected three days later—and many saw that too. He appeared post-resurrection to several people. So why is that important? It proves who He is. Only the source of life, the Son of God, could defeat death and come back to life. Jesus has power over sin and death and the resurrection proves this.

What are the three main events Paul lists as the core of the gospel?

↑ How does Jesus's resurrection prove that God has the final say over death?

→ If the resurrection is an actual historical event, how does it change the way you live this week?

MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word, including punctuation. Keep attempting this until you get every word in the right order.

PRAY

Jesus, thank You that the resurrection isn't just a story, but a historical reality. Help me live with the confidence that because You are alive, I can face any giant or struggle today.

Day 03

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-11

READ & RESPOND

In today's passage, Paul has a moment of reflection. Jesus appeared to Paul while he was on his way to persecute Jesus's followers. Paul was passionate about rooting out (what he thought were) false beliefs affecting the Jews. But when he encountered Jesus, everything changed. He went from being a staunch persecutor to the primary apostle to the Gentiles. Paul humbly states that he is also a witness of the risen Christ, and he has dedicated his life to spreading the gospel so that others, too, will be saved. Paul's encounter with Christ completely rewired him. His heart beat for Jesus and the gospel message, and through Him, the Gentiles (yourself included) have the gospel of the resurrected Christ.

What facts does Paul share about his past and his current work?

What does Paul's transformation reveal about God's ability to use "unlikely" people?

If grace defines your worth, how should that change the way you judge others' mistakes?

MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

PRAY

Lord, thank You that Your grace is bigger than my past. Help me to stop performing for Your approval and start living in the freedom of Your love. Use my story to point others toward You.

Day 04

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

READ & RESPOND

Jesus's resurrection is essential to the gospel. If it didn't happen, then the church, faith, salvation—it's all for nothing. Everything hinges on the resurrection. And only because of Jesus's resurrection will His followers be resurrected one day. If you haven't given it deep thought, consider now: Jesus is alive. He currently sits at the right hand of His Father, but He will come back for His followers—the living and the dead. He will resurrect those who have died and gather all believers into His presence for eternity.

If Christ didn't rise from the dead, what does Paul say is the result for our faith?

How does this passage reveal our desperate need for a Savior who actually conquered death?

How does knowing that death isn't the end change the way you treat people who don't know Jesus yet?

MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Be sure to listen back to the recordings this week.

PRAY

Lord, thank You that the empty tomb is a historical fact, not a fairy tale. Open my eyes to the power of the resurrection today. Help me live with the confidence that because You rose, I have a future.

Day 05

1 PETER 1:3-4

READ & RESPOND

Because of the resurrection, we have a living hope—eternal life in Jesus's presence. We don't have to worry about what the future holds because believers trust in the inheritance of heaven. Peter tells us that what we have in Christ is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." Sin has ruined everything on this earth, but the treasure in heaven we wait for is unaffected by decay. Sin has broken everything, but the glory that awaits us is undefiled. It will never fade, never diminish. Understanding the inheritance that awaits us as children of the King helps us endure the pain, death, and heartbreak of this sinful world. But none of it would be possible without the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

← **Why would a group of people facing real-world persecution need to be reminded of an imperishable inheritance?**

↓ **What does this tell us about our true value, if our inheritance is kept in heaven rather than on earth?**

→ **If your future is fully secure with God, how should that change how you handle stress?**

MEMORIZE

Rewrite **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** in today's modern language. You could text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology in focus! Paraphrasing in everyday language ensures we comprehend what we're memorizing.

PRAY

Father, thank You for the living hope found in Jesus. When life feels shaky, remind me that my true inheritance is secure with You. Help me live today anchored in that eternal promise.