



Easter

THE RESURRECTION

Believers find assurance for this life and the life to come through the resurrected Lord.

JOHN 20:3-9; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28

The resurrection has been central to the gospel story for all of Christian history. Paul explained to believers the importance of Christ's resurrection. The gospel message explained the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross. He was buried and raised on the third day. Our salvation comes from His death and resurrection. If there is no resurrection, there is no salvation for us. All the blessings of His resurrection are lost. But there is proof Jesus was raised from the dead. One reason we believe in the resurrection is because many people saw Jesus after his resurrection. The disciples and the followers of Jesus saw Him alive after He died. For 2000 years believers have experienced the resurrected Jesus. Everyone who comes to Christ today comes believing that God has raised Him from the dead.

JOHN 20:3-9; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28

3 So Peter and the **other follower** ㉔ started for the tomb. 4 They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down and looked in and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then following him, **Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb** ㉕ and saw the strips of linen lying there. 7 He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus' head, which was folded up and laid in a different place from the strips of linen. 8 Then the other follower, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. **He saw and believed.** ㉖ 9 (They did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from the dead.)

15:20 But Christ has truly been raised from the dead—the first one and proof that **those who sleep** ㉗ in death will also be raised. 21 Death has come because of what one man did, but the rising from death also comes because of one man. 22 **In Adam** ㉘ all of us die. In the same way, **in Christ** ㉙ all of us will be made alive again. 23 But everyone **will be raised to life** ㉚ in the right order. Christ was first to be raised. When Christ comes again, those who belong to him **will be raised to life**, ㉛ 24 and then the **end will come.** ㉜ At that time Christ will destroy all rulers, authorities, and powers, and he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. 25 Christ must rule until he puts all enemies under his control. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed will be death. 27 The Scripture says that God put all things under his control. When it says “all things” are under him, it is clear this does not include God himself. God is the One who put everything under his control. 28 After everything has been put under the Son, then he will put himself under God, who had put all things under him. Then **God will be the complete ruler** ㉝ over everything.

- a. The Bible does not identify the “other follower.” Many believe this person was John, one of the twelve disciples.
- b. Peter went in first and then John. They saw the tomb was empty.
- c. They believed what the women had said. They did not yet fully understand the truth of the resurrection.
- d. Paul sometimes uses the word “sleep” to mean the death of a believer.
- e. All who are “in Adam” die or will die. That includes every living person. All who are “in Christ” live. That includes only those who trust Christ for salvation.
- f. Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead. At the return of Christ all believers will also be raised.
- g. The return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead will signal the end of all things when God wraps up time in His own way.
- h. God has always been the complete ruler. But in the end all things will once again be ordered correctly.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

How do we know that the resurrection really happened?

What does it mean that the disciples saw the empty tomb and believed?

What proof did Paul give that believers will be raised from the dead?

How is the sin of Adam related to the death of all people?

How is the resurrection of Jesus related to the salvation of all believers?

What will happen when Jesus comes again?

What is the last enemy that will be defeated by Jesus? Why is this important for believers?

Who is the final ruler over all things? What will His rule look like?

BIBLE SKILL: *Read and explain Bible verses.*

Look up the verses below. Write a few words about the resurrection of Jesus.

Luke 24:13-14 _____

Romans 10:9 _____

Matthew 16:21 _____

1 Corinthians 15:4-6 _____

Colossians 1:18 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Salvation comes through believing in the Christ who rose from the dead.
- Believers find true life through faith in Christ who rose from the dead.
- Believers can live knowing the resurrection is real and that the living Christ will rule as king forever.

Discuss as a group how a person can be saved and why the resurrection of Jesus is important for salvation.

What does it mean “in Adam all die”? How does that compare with the other sentence, “in Christ all of us will be made alive...”?

Discuss with the class what will happen when Christ comes again.

MEMORY VERSE

But Christ has truly been raised from the dead—the first one and proof that those who sleep in death will also be raised.
- 1 Corinthians 15:20

DAY ONE

Read John 20:3-5.

Mary Magdalene and Mary, Mother of James and Salome bought some sweet-smelling spices to prepare Jesus' body. They had to wait until after the Sabbath was over so they could go to the tomb early to anoint Jesus' body. They wanted to do this because of their love, devotion, and respect. They brought spices to the tomb like people take flowers to a grave today.

When the women arrived at the tomb they saw the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. They ran to inform the disciples. That is how Peter and the other disciples found out. They went to the tomb to see with their own eyes. Perhaps they thought the women went to the wrong tomb.

Most Bible teachers believe "the other follower" in verse 4 was John. John wrote the Gospel of John and usually did not name himself in his writing.

What do you think you would have done if you had been one of those who heard the women report that the tomb was empty?

DAY TWO

Read John 20:6-9.

Peter saw the empty tomb with his own eyes. He saw the white cloth that was wrapped around Jesus's body. It was lying on the stone. Peter and the other disciples could not understand what it meant.

You may remember the story in the Bible where Jesus was walking with Peter and His disciples. Jesus tried to teach His disciples that He would die soon. It was part of God's plan. In Matthew 16:21-23, Peter could not understand what Jesus was saying to them. Jesus said He had to go to Jerusalem because of God's plan. Peter knew that place was very dangerous for Him. Jesus explained He must go to Jerusalem where the Jewish elders, priests, leaders, and the teachers of law would make Him suffer. He told them that He must be killed and rise from the dead on the third day. Peter could not understand. He did not want to lose Jesus.

He asked Jesus to stop. He said, “God save you from those things, Lord! Those things will never happen to you!” Then Jesus said to Peter, “Go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don’t care about the things of God, but only about the things people think are important” (Matthew 16:22-23).

When Peter saw the empty tomb, he should have remembered what Jesus told him when they were traveling down the road to Caesarea Philippi. Even still, Peter and John did not understand what was happening.

Why didn’t the disciples understand Jesus would rise from the dead?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

Paul said that death entered the world through one man. That man was Adam. Genesis 3 tells the story about how Eve ate the fruit and gave it to Adam. God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from that tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They chose to disobey God and sin began.

However, there is good news! Jesus came to earth just as God had planned. Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead. Romans 10:9 tells us, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.” We believe in the Resurrected Christ.

Keep in mind what Paul said in verse 20. Paul will come back to the idea of the resurrection in verse 23.

What does it mean “in Adam all of us die”?

What will happen to a person who does not trust in Jesus?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Salvation*

Salvation is God's free gift to people who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. There is no one else that can offer salvation—ONLY JESUS CHRIST. Nothing and no one can take away our salvation. Our faith in Christ gives us a new birth through the work of God's grace. Salvation is provided to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Corinthians 15:23-24.

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Christ went back home to His Father in Heaven. When the right time comes, Jesus will come back and meet us up in the air. We will live with Jesus after we die.

Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 to encourage Christians. He said when a Christian dies we should not be sad. God will raise Christians from the dead. When Jesus comes back, Christian people will hear a loud trumpet call of God. Those Christians who are dead will rise first from the ground. They will meet Jesus up in the sky. The Christian people alive on earth will gather up with them in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air. What wonderful news!

Christians have many different ideas about how these things will happen. One sure thing to keep in mind is when these things occur the end has come. God will wrap up things in exactly the way He has planned.

How do these verses give you encouragement to live daily for Jesus?

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:25-28.

Paul explained to believers that they will experience the resurrection and the eternal reign of Christ. This was confirmed when Peter and the disciples saw the empty tomb. Jesus was not there. Jesus told the disciples the truth. He told them He would live again.

At the right time in God's plan, the dead will rise. There is more information about these things in Revelation 20:14. The writer, John, explained the final destruction of death. He used the words, "second death." People who did not believe in Jesus will experience the "second death." Whoever believed in Jesus will go to eternal life in heaven. Whoever didn't believe in Jesus will spend eternity in the lake of fire (hell).

What can you do to miss the second death and to experience eternal life in heaven?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from John 20 and 1 Corinthians 15. Meet with one or two other members of your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

If you have never trusted in Jesus as your personal Savior, this week would be a great time to make that decision. Talk with your study friends and let them lead you to Christ.

If you know Jesus as your personal Savior, how can you and your study friends share the story of the resurrection of Jesus so that other people can come to faith in Jesus?

How does the resurrection of Jesus change life for you today?



THE RESURRECTION

John 20:3-9; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

PLAN AHEAD

Pray for group members. Pray they will make a decision to follow Christ if they are not believers.

Ask _____ to be prepared to sign the story of Mary, Peter, and John's visit to Jesus' tomb (John 20:1-9). They should be able to sign the story without looking at the text.

Review the story of the crucifixion from John 19. Be ready to summarize the story during the session.

Look up the verses from In Your Context in the personal study guide. Be prepared to share the plan of salvation to the group.

Review the material from the personal study guide. Be prepared to discuss if members have comments or questions from last week's reading.

Ask one or two members to be ready to share their testimonies of how they learned about Jesus and how they decided to follow Christ.

FOCUS ATTENTION

Each year people all over the world celebrate Easter. For many it is a time to gather eggs, eat candy, and think about spring. But for Christians Easter is a celebration of Jesus' victory over death.

Briefly share the story of the crucifixion. **ASK:** *How do we know Jesus was dead?* One of the soldiers put his spear into Jesus' side and blood and water came out. The soldiers did not break His legs because they knew He was dead (John 19:33-34). Two men took Jesus' body and placed it in a tomb.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Believing in the Resurrection (John 20:3-9)

Ask the volunteer to sign the story from John 20:1-9.

ASK: *How do you think Mary, Peter, and John felt when they saw the tomb was empty?*

Invite the group to find 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Ask them to list the people that saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. Write them on the board as they are mentioned. The two men on the way to Emmaus also saw Jesus (Luke 24:13-32). **ASK:** *Why is it important to know these people saw Jesus?*

2. Made Alive through the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

Sign 1 Corinthians 15:20-22. **ASK:** *How did death come to all people through Adam? (See Genesis 3.) What is the good news in these verses? (Christ makes us all alive again.)*

3. Future Found in the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23-28)

Sign 1 Corinthians 15:23-28. Use information from the personal study guide to discuss Jesus' return. **EXPLAIN:** *We do not know when Jesus will come back. Some people try to figure out the date Jesus will return. Do not let these people fool you. It will be a surprise. But we do know Jesus WILL come back and take us all to be with Him (see John 14:1-4).*

There was a preacher who taught his church about the Book of Revelation. He explained many difficult things. He said there are different interpretations about how the end will happen. But everyone agrees on one thing: Jesus Christ wins! We will be with Him forever.

IN MY CONTEXT

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection demands a decision. We must choose to believe and follow Jesus, or choose to reject Him. It is more than an interesting story. It means life in heaven with Jesus or an eternity of suffering. Sign the verses from In Your Context. Invite members to share their testimonies. Encourage members who would like to make a decision to follow Christ to meet with you after the session.

Close in prayer. Encourage members to read the daily readings in the personal study guide.