



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: 2 Corinthians 15:1-19 – The resurrection

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What is the most common objection of people you may know to faith in Christ? Do they revolve around the truth of the resurrection, or are they around other less important issues?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Dave mentioned three reasons he believes the resurrection is true: 1. The accounts of Jesus Christ being alive began very early; 2. The sheer number of people who saw Jesus after he was crucified and 3. People don't die for what they know to be a lie

1. Of these reasons which is most compelling for you? Why?

2. Why was this issue "the most important" for the apostle Paul?

3. How can we fail to make this 'the most important issue' when sharing our faith? What issues tend to cloud defending and explaining our faith?

Dave said that the resurrection matters because... 1. Your past can be forgiven, 2. Your present is never hopeless and 3. Your future is secure

4. Of the three which one means the most to you right now? Why?

5. In what area do you see people struggling the most right now? Who in your life do you need to be praying for and begin engaging in a conversation about the gospel?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 Corinthians 15:1-19]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Why is it important to continue to hold the message I told you? (15:2)

Why did Paul pass on what he had received that was most important? (15:3)

How did Christ's life fulfill the Scriptures? (15:3)

What are the key points of the gospel? (15:3-8)

To whom did Christ appear after His resurrection? (15:5-8)

Why did Paul emphasize the facts of Christ's resurrection? (15:5-8)

Why did Paul describe himself as one "who was born at the wrong time"? (15:8)

Why did Paul feel unworthy to be called an apostle? (15:9)

For what reason was Paul able to call himself an apostle? (15:10)

What were some Corinthians saying that troubled Paul? (15:12)

How was the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection relevant to the dispute in Corinth? (15:12-13)
If Christ had not in fact been raised, what would be true of Christianity and Christians? (15:14-19)
What condition would make a Christian's faith useless? (15:17-18)
Why is faith in Christ useless and pitiable if Jesus has not been raised? (15:19)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How would you describe, in your own words, the importance of the gospel to your life?
What has God's grace accomplished in you? In what way ought Paul's humility "born at the wrong time" inform us about how we "share our faith"?
What does it mean for you to hold firmly to the gospel?
What are the implications of the fact that the truth of the gospel is of first importance to God?
When have you ever doubted any of the truths of the gospel?
In what way does Paul's assertion that without the resurrection your faith is useless, etc... give you confidence in the truthfulness of the gospel?
What hope does Jesus' resurrection provide for your daily life?
When is it best to reason logically with people who doubt the gospel? When is it not worth it?
How can you be more effective in sharing the gospel with others?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?
How can we pray for each other?