

**Life Group Topic #14: Resurrection of the Dead**  
**April 12, 2009**

**WELCOME:** (15 minutes)

What do you like most about spring?

**WORSHIP:** (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

**WORD APPLICATION:** (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

What does it take to gain a position into a highly sought after job? Or what does it take to gain entrance to a highly sought after music or sports event? (For example the Gold-medal hockey championship of the Olympic Games?) Competition would be fierce for such privileges. Such positions would demand skill, money or a highly respected resume of accomplishment.

So what does it take to gain entrance into the Kingdom of God? (**Romans 10:9**) Aren't you glad that God requires nothing like the above for entrance into the kingdom? God's acceptance is not predicated upon great intellect, savvy, or skill.

The only question that matters is: **What have you done with Jesus?**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, in which we celebrate on Easter Sunday, is the pivotal truth of our faith. Why? Because if this is true then it is ALL true:

- true that He is the Son of God
- true that He died for our sins
- true that God approved and accepted His work at the cross
- true that He ascended to heaven
- true that He has exalted dominion over the universe

The resurrection of Jesus is...

- the only reasonable explanation for the empty tomb: Mt 27:62-66 and in Mk 15:46
- the only reasonable explanation for the appearances of Jesus on 10 separate occasions
- the only reasonable explanation for the beginning of the Christian church---without it the church would never have formed
- the only reasonable explanation for the transformation of the disciples

**Read the text: I Corinthians 15: 12-25**

- 1. Imagine for a moment that all of the teachings of Biblical Christianity were true- except for the fact that Jesus never was raised from the dead, and we never will be raised. Would that personally change your commitment to be a follower of Jesus?**
- 2. In vs. 17 Paul says that if Christ was not raised from the dead, we are still in our sins, and our faith is futile. Why is that so?**
- 3. In vs. 19 Paul says that if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. Do you agree? How grounded is your present life in the hope of another life beyond the grave?**

**Read I Thessalonians 4: 13-18**

- 1. What is the promise here for those who have died “in Christ?”**
- 2. Meditate for a moment the promise of vs. 17 and the re-uniting of Christ with those who belong to Him. Encourage each other with this truth together, as you try to imagine it.**
- 3. Is there someone who you deeply miss, who you anticipate being reunited with on that day? Tell a little about their legacy of faith and impact on your life.**
- 4. Think of the “enemies” that will be destroyed when Jesus calls us home: pain, sorrow, suffering, and death. Which of these enemies do you long to be freed from, or for your loved ones to be freed from? Praise God together for the certain hope of resurrection freedom.**

**WITNESS: (15 minutes)**

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Relational outreach always has the goal of ultimately enfolding those we reach into the Life Group.