

## The Resurrection: What Difference Does it Make?

Pastor Don Brock

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

### Open

Today as we celebrate Easter and Jesus' triumphant resurrection, Pastor Don helps us understand how Jesus' victory over death brings with it tremendous implications for our lives today. And although our culture typically tries to downplay or explain away the fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection, in today's study we'll see how the Bible confirms the resurrection as a fundamental evidence of Jesus as God's chosen Messiah. In fact, the Bible presents His resurrection as the central feat which proves His divine nature, demonstrates God's approval of all that He said and did, and affirms future eternal life for all who follow Him. To get your group started, let everyone share about their process of believing and trusting in the reality of Jesus' resurrection from the dead - has it been an easy process or one with which they've struggled?

### BIG THOUGHT

Jesus' resurrection from the dead gives us confidence that we can trust not only what He said and did during His ministry here but also that He will take care of us after our time on earth is over.

### Dig

1. The reality of life after death is referenced often in the Old Testament. Read Job 19:25-27 as an example. Of what is Job confident? Now read Psalm 16:10. This psalm is traditionally interpreted as one which hints at characteristics of the then-future Messiah - what is the promise in this verse? How does Jesus fulfill this?
2. To see how Jesus tried to help His listeners understand life after death, read Matthew 22:23-33. Why were the Sadducees asking Jesus this question? (v. 23) On what does Jesus base His answer? (v. 29) And how does Jesus ultimately answer them? (v. 32) Does His answer make sense to you? Why or why not?
3. Now read Matthew 20:17-19. How does this show that Jesus' resurrection was intentional? And what would you have thought if Jesus had said this to you? Read John 2:18-22. What central question did the Jewish leaders ask? (v.18) How does this show that Jesus' resurrection is foundational to affirming His ministry? Explain.
4. Read Romans 4:25. What does this verse say is the reason for Jesus' death? And what does His resurrection accomplish? At what point in your life did your standing with God become something you were concerned about? Share with the group.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-14. How central of an issue to Paul is Jesus' resurrection? Read 15:15-18. What are the implications for Jesus' followers if He wasn't raised from the dead? Are any of these particularly troubling to you? Which one/s? Now read 15:19. Would you agree with this? Why or why not?
6. To finish, read Luke's description of Jesus' last meeting with the disciples after His resurrection in Luke 24:36-45. What would you have thought if you had been there? Why do you think Luke specifically wrote that Jesus denied being a "spirit" and ate breakfast with them? How can this encourage you today?

### Take it Further

Talk with Jesus and thank Him for proving all that He said and did with the truth of His resurrection!

#### Daily Readings

Day 1: 1 Peter 1:3

Day 2: 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Day 3: Romans 10:9

Day 4: John 11:25

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 6:14

Day 6: John 3:17

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:20



**GATEWAY**

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