



Q2: If you ask anyone else in culture what is Easter about, I am sure you will get many different types of responses from Easter bunny, eggs, dressing up and going to church and then some who will say Jesus' death and resurrection. So often in the busyness of life Easter can turn into just another holiday season but for believers it is much more than that.

Q3: Read Romans 5:9-11 and 6:23. Our sin is serious. It is so serious that it deserves death and required the death of the Son of God to pay for that sin. The only way for us to be reconciled to God was through Christ's sacrifice. Easter was the biggest event in history and the fact that the Son of God was the only one who could pay for our sin should help understand the gravity of our sin and the necessity of Easter.

Q4: Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 with the group and ask the question. After you receive some responses read the quotes from Tim Keller and MacArthur as well and ask for their thoughts. If the resurrection is not true, then everything we're doing as Christians is all in vain. This passage says your faith and preaching is futile, we're false witnesses, and worst of all, we're still in our sins those who have passed away are lost. The resurrection is what our faith hinges on and the truth of the resurrection is what changes everything.

Q5: Read Romans 8:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. Our sin has been paid for through Jesus' death on the cross and for those who put their faith in God now are given the righteousness of God through Jesus. We are no longer under condemnation and are not bound by the law. We can't earn Salvation and that should be good news and a relief for us

Q6: Read Acts 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 with the group. After some responses also read the Billy Graham quote and ask for their thoughts. The resurrection of Christ gives us power to live the Christian life today as a new creation. Most believers recognize and celebrate the past resurrection of Christ, and most are also aware of the future resurrection spoken of in Scripture, but so often we forget that there is an aspect of resurrection power that is available to us all at this very moment. What we can experience now is not the full-blown resurrection of receiving new, glorified bodies, but rather, what we might call a taste of glory divine. This power can drastically change our lives just like it did for the disciples and first followers of Jesus.

Q7: Read 1 Corinthians 5:20-23 and Revelation 21:1-4. It means we have hope for a future resurrection in new bodies and a hope that we will be a part of a new heaven and new earth. We have hope that death will no longer have any power over us, and all the pain, suffering, hardship, and sin and brokenness of this world will be gone. Having this perspective with our future should change everything will how we live our lives today.

Resurrection is what happens when the life of God touches and influences everything else. Resurrection is an historical fact to be celebrated, a current reality to be experienced, and a future event to be anticipated. Make sure that you are celebrating, experiencing, and anticipating God's life to the fullest.



## LIFE GROUP

ICE BREAKER: What are some of your favorite traditions on Easter?

1. Read Luke 24:1-10. What insight, lesson, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? How was your experience with the Life Tool's this past week?
2. How do you think our culture typically views Easter? How have you viewed it?
3. Read Romans 5:9-11 and 6:23. What does this passage say about why Easter had to happen?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is the resurrection being true so important?
5. Read Romans 8:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What does the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the grave tell us?
6. Read Acts 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does the resurrection mean for your life today?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 and Revelation 21:1-4. What does the resurrection mean for your life in the future?



## FURTHER STUDY

### Romans 5:9-11(NIV)

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### Romans 6:23 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in <sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-19(NIV)

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is

your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

### **Romans 8:1-4 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you<sup>[a]</sup> free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,<sup>[b]</sup> God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.<sup>[c]</sup> And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

### **2 Corinthians 5:18-21(NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[a]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Acts 1:8-9 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:<sup>[a]</sup> The old has gone, the new is here!

## 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

## Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

### A New Heaven and a New Earth

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’<sup>[b]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”



If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.

– Timothy Keller

The truth of the resurrection gives life to every other area of gospel truth. The resurrection is the pivot on which all of Christianity turns and without which none of the other truths would much matter. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be so much wishful thinking, taking its place alongside all other human philosophy and religious speculation.

– John MacArthur

Before the Resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon individuals only on certain occasions for special tasks. But now, after the Resurrection, Christ through the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of every believer to give us supernatural power in living our daily lives.

– Billy Graham

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

– C.S. Lewis

## **Additional Resources**

Devotionals-

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/resurrection-christ/>

Articles –

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-the-resurrection-changes-everything/>

Sermon-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-do-we-celebrate-easter>

<https://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/implications-of-the-resurrection/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/objections-answered/the-resurrection-of-christ/>