



“RESURRECTION + HOPE”

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BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18, + 5:17, AND ROMANS 8:22-25

This week’s message begins with 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In these verses, the Apostle Paul is expressing the core tenets of the Gospel, and reminding his readers of its foundation in the resurrection of Jesus. Paul was writing this letter to people who had asked important questions about the resurrection of Jesus, as they were struggling with its implications for the Church. As he answers them, Paul is reminding the Corinthians that they are invited to join in the Gospel story through this resurrection – that we might “never be the same again” (NT Wright). From this, we are all called to find hope.

In Romans 8:22-25, we read that “the whole of creation” has been waiting in pain for this hope found in the resurrection. This idea is reaffirmed in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 where Paul writes for them to “not lose hope” since the work of the resurrected Lord through them, on earth and in their city, is achieving eternal glory. Whether that work is seen or unseen, their labor is not in vain. This is then the main point of today’s message. Like the Corinthians, we must hold onto the hope and faith of a resurrected life. It is then that we too may participate in bringing the glory of God to a world “groaning” in pain, whether that work is seen or not.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker’s message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What was the last new skill you learned?
2. When you were a kid what did you want to be when you grew up?
3. Have you ever thought about learning another language? Why or why not? If you know multiple languages, what are they, and what’s it like to be bi-lingual?
4. What are you hopeful for in this season of your life?
5. When was the last time you had a life-changing event? What was it?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what’s been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. How does Paul explain the Gospel message in this passage? Why, according to Paul, is this Gospel message so important?
2. In 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, What does Paul say the ramifications are if Christ was not resurrected?
3. Paul writes about “groaning” and “hope” Romans 8:22-25. Why, according to Paul, is there this groaning? Also, in what is there hope, and how does Paul say one should hope?

CONTINUED:

4. In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Paul writes about what is outward and seen versus what is inward and unseen. How are these ideas described as being connected and how does Paul call the Corinthians to act?
5. How does Paul describe those who are now “in Christ” in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How does the story of the Gospel challenge the individualistic culture we live in today?
2. Why do you think the Gospel’s miracles and the resurrection of Jesus are difficult concepts for us to understand today?
3. Can you think of examples in our culture where we are already living out the promise of a whole and healed world?
4. Our society puts so much hope in the here and now. How does the resurrection flip that by speaking about hope to come?
5. How are other people the evidence of Jesus?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Where do your beliefs come from? How did you come to the beliefs and values you hold?
2. What is your relationship with the texts of the Bible? Do you believe they are pertinent to you and could change your life, and why or why not?
3. What does the good news Jesus proclaims, that the kingdom of Heaven is near, mean to you?
4. Has your life felt like it’s on a downward spiral? If so, where can the Good News of salvation and grace bring hope to you?
5. Are your daily thoughts and actions life-giving or life-draining for you and others?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Take a long drive and enjoy the beauty of the world around us, reflecting on God’s goodness.
2. Pick a day and try to consciously submit every thing you do to the Lord as an act of service and worship. Journal your thoughts about the experience at day’s end.
3. Have a meal or get coffee with someone new or someone you haven’t seen in a while to intentionally build relationships and community.