

Living Connections Bible Study



What If Christ had not Risen?

Prayer:

Icebreaker: What difference has the resurrection of Jesus made in your life, and what does it mean to you?

Our faith does not rest on human opinions but on the Word of God! There are many followers of men, of human philosophies, and man made religions. They follow false messiah's whose claims have never been substantiated by resurrection. These false messiahs are still in the grave, but ***Praise God we serve a risen Savior!***

The ancient Greeks did not believe in a resurrection for the body. They believed that life after death was only for the soul. At Corinth certain persons within the church began to deny this most fundamental of Christian doctrines - a physical, bodily resurrection for every human being – some to everlasting life and those who have rejected the Savior to everlasting judgment.

1. What did Jesus have to say about these two resurrections in John 5:24-29?

6 arguments that Paul used to refute those who deny the Resurrection

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

2. What were some in the Corinthian church denying? 1 Corinthians 15:12

In verses 13-19 Paul wants us to see how horrible the consequences would be if Christ did not rise from death. He shows us how everything that we believe hinges on Christ's resurrection.

3. What is Paul's first argument to those who denied the resurrection? 1 Corinthians 15:13

4. What did Jesus do for His disciples to prove that He had a physical body after His resurrection?
Luke 24:36-43

5. How many eye witnesses of Jesus' resurrection were there in those 40 days before His ascension back to Heaven? 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

6. What is Paul's second argument for the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:14?

7. What third argument do we find for the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:15?

8. What do we know about the moral character of the men and women who testified that they had seen the risen Christ? Were they drunkards? Were they adulterers and fornicators? Were they thieves? Were they politicians striving for political office and power?

What motive would these men and women have to claim that Christ was raised to life again, if He had not? What would they gain by lying about the resurrection? History makes it clear that it was all loss and no gain to them if Christ was not raised. They shared their testimony in Jerusalem where many had witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Immediately the religious leaders among the Jews began to persecute them, hauling them off to prison, beating them, and in the years that followed they were persecuted by Jews and Gentiles alike, even being put to death for their faith.

They were so full of conviction for the resurrection that they traveled thousands of miles across land and sea to preach the Gospel. They were brought before emperors and kings and governing authorities. They were threatened with torture and death, but not one of them ever withdrew his/her testimony concerning Christ's resurrection. They declared that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, that He died for our sins, He was buried and rose again that we might receive the gift of eternal life.

9. What is Paul's argument for the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:17?

10. What is Paul's fifth argument in 1 Corinthians 15:18?

11. What is Paul's sixth argument for the resurrection found in 1 Corinthians 15:19?

12. What great confidence does Paul proclaim in 1 Corinthians 15:20?

Think about it this week:

*Upon a life we did not live, Upon a death we did not die,
We stake our whole eternity!*

There are times when our faith is severely tested. Did you ever lie down on the brink of eternity, full of apprehension, almost over the edge of this world as it were, and looked into the dread abyss called eternity? There, unless you are sure about the foundation of your faith, you are in an awful place. Unless you have a solid rock beneath you, your hope will shrivel away to nothing, and your confidence will run away and hide. But when you are sure that **The Lord is risen indeed, as He said He would**, then you will find a solid foundation beneath you that cannot be shaken. You can stand on the brink of eternity and look death in the eye, unafraid of what may happen to you tomorrow.

Who can you share your hope of resurrection and eternal life with this week?