**Life Team Bible Study**

For the week of April 16 (Easter) - Colors of Grace wk 2

**HANG**

* What holiday do you think is more important Christmas or Easter? Why?
* What is your favorite Easter memory?
* How important is the resurrection of Jesus? Why - why not?
* Would it matter if Jesus did not rise from the dead? Why?

**Quick Review**: Looking back at this week’s teaching was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**HEAR**

Tonight we want to take a look at why the Resurrection of Jesus is so important.

Read one or more of these passages:

**Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-23, Luke 24:36-48,**

* When you read that story what comes to mind for you?

**1 Corinthians15:19**

* How do you know Jesus rose again?

**BIG POINT:** **The Resurrection is a historical truth, not just a religious truth!**

Why it Matters: Without The Resurrection

* Have you ever engaged in a conversation with someone regarding whether the resurrection really happened? If so, how did it go?
* Studies show 75% of Americans believe the resurrection to be true. In light of this, why do you think so many choose not to follow Christ or live like this is true?

Understanding who Jesus is and what he has done for us is the essential message of the resurrection. The following passages all contain statements Jesus made about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and any ways you can think of how his description of himself can impact our lives as believers.

**Matthew 11:29, John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:14-15, John 14:6**

* Which of the descriptions of Jesus catches your attention the most and why?

**If Jesus never Rose Again…**

❶ Faith in Jesus is absolutely *worthless*.

 **1 Corinthians 15:14, 17**

* Would you want to be Christian even if the resurrection never happened? Why - why not?

❷ The New Testament is filled with *lies.*

 **1 Corinthians 15:15/ John 11:25/ Acts 4:1-2 & 23:6-8**

* Do you think you would read the Bible if you thought that some of it was made up or a flat out lie? Why?

❸ Heaven is a silly *myth*.

 **1 Corinthians 15:18**

* Would it matter to you if Heaven was not real?
* And when we die we just die? Why? Would that be okay with you?

❹ Christians are *pitiful fools*.

 **1 Corinthians 15:19**

* Would you feel sorry for or laugh at people who followed a silly religion?

❺ Personal sacrifice is *stupid*.

 **1 Corinthians 15:30-32/ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

* If we do not have to answer to God - how differently would you look at people or pursue things in life?
* If the Resurrection is true - how according to - **Acts 2:37-42 -** are we to respond?

**When someone decides to live in light of the reality of the Resurrection, there will be a cost involved because anything worth much usually costs much.**

* How do Jesus’ words about the cost of following Him in **Luke 14:25-35** fit with your spiritual journey and/or experience in following Him?

If you’d like more information on the historical reliability of the Resurrection, a great, easy to understand book is *A Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.

* What do you find most meaningful about what Christ did for us?

**Romans 8:10-11**

* The same power that raised Christ from the dead is there for us to live a godly life and to face the challenges of life. What do you need the power of God for in your life?

**HUDDLE**

* What was your Easter like this past week?
* What stood out the most - what will be the big memory?
* Did someone you invited come to church this past week - what did they think?
* A few share what difference Jesus has Jesus made in your life?
* Ask for prayer requests for each other?

**HOME**

In reality, living out your faith is the best proof of a resurrected Jesus. We often call it being the “hands and feet of Jesus.” How do the following verses reinforce this idea and describe what this looks like?

**Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:15-17, Philippians 2:1-5**

* Which of these verses powers you the most to live like Jesus?

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Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-23, Luke 24:36-48

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1 Corinthians15:19, Matthew 11:29, John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:14-15, John 14:6

**Why it Matters: Without The Resurrection - If Jesus never Rose Again…**

1 Corinthians 15:14-19, 30-32, John 11:25/ Acts 4:1-2 & 23:6-8, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

❶ Faith in Jesus is absolutely *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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