



The Resurrection



Introduction

The Resurrection of Christ

Many people in our society today have a belief in reincarnation. There are millions who try to live a good life in order to earn the right to a better one when they are reincarnated. Many believe there is nothing after death, simply annihilation. They live in a denial that death will ever catch up with them and in those times when they are forced to consider their own mortality, through bereavement or being involved in a life threatening situation themselves, they find it at best troubling and more often deeply unsettling. And although many people would like to believe there is a life after death, a resurrection, most find it hard to accept as a reality.

As Christians, however, we have a personal belief that we will have our own resurrection when we die and at Easter we celebrate Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us and his resurrection. We have not had time in these studies to go into all the evidence there is for the resurrection of Christ, but if you would like to explore this further some suggestions for further reading are:

- **“The Case for Easter”** by Lee Strobel
- **“Raised with Christ – how the resurrection changes everything”** by Adrian Warnock
- **“Who moved the Stone?”** by Frank Morison

These studies will focus more on what it really means to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. What does it say about Christ himself and what are the implications for us as believers?

We have broken the studies into two, the first looking at the implications of what the resurrection says about Christ and the second on the implications for the believer. We suggest that it is worth spending as much time as you need as a group to cover each of the studies and although they are set up as two studies it may take more than two weeks to complete them both.



The Implications of the Resurrection

Part One - Significance

Connect

1. How often do you think about Jesus' resurrection? Is it as often as you think about His death?

Discover

Prophecies and Predictions

Old Testament scriptures predicted Jesus' resurrection, though this was only realised by the disciples after the event.

Read together John 20:9, Luke 24:45-46, Acts 2:24-32, and 13:32-33; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus fully expected to rise from the dead, and spoke of it during His ministry.

Read together Matthew 16:21, and 17:9, and 20:18-19.

Spend a few moments reflecting on the significance of these verses. Share anything that God impresses on you especially.

Claims and Authorities

Jesus had many arguments with the religious leaders over His right to speak

and act as He did, especially His claims to deity and supreme authority.

Read and comment on together the example in John 5:17-18.

Read John 8:12-13, 17-18, 28, 54

2. What was the Pharisees' objection to Jesus' claims on the grounds of the Law God had given?
3. Which two witnesses did Jesus refer them to?
4. The Father was already corroborating what Jesus said by the miracles he performed; in what way was the corroborating evidence still incomplete?

Read Matthew 12:38-40, John 2:18-22, and Romans 1:3-4.

5. When challenged for a convincing proof of His claims, what did Jesus direct His questioners to, using picture language? Why is this ultimate proof?
6. If He had not been raised, how would this affect our confidence in Him?
7. Consider what questions might arise about:
 - The quality of His character
 - The accuracy of His self-belief
 - The reliability of His power to save

- His authority to command and to judge mankind

Acceptance and Vindication

As it is, the Father set His seal to all that Jesus had said and done. Jesus' sufferings and death make our forgiveness possible, and His resurrection guarantees that forgiveness to us. **Romans 4:25.**

John Stott says: Condemned for blasphemy, He was now designated Son of God by the resurrection. Executed for sedition, for claiming to be a king, God made Him "both Lord and Christ". Hanged on a tree under the curse of God, He was vindicated as the Saviour of sinners, the curse He bore being due to us and not to Him.

Triumph over death and evil

Read Romans 6:9, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 55-57, and Revelation 21:4, and compare Isaiah 25:6-8.

Pick out the things that are linked with death.

8. As we are affected by the sin and sorrow of this world, in what ways should the triumph of Jesus' resurrection influence our thinking and our praying?

Right to judge all people

Read John 5:26-27, Acts 10:40-42 and 17:31.

9. Why does Jesus' resurrection reveal Him to be our Judge?

An essential part of the Gospel

10. How does **Acts 1:21-22** demonstrate the importance the disciples attached to the resurrection? Why was this?

11. How would you describe the place it had in their teaching? **Acts 2:32-33; Acts 3:15; Acts 4:2, 10, 33; Acts 17:2-3 and 18.**

12. How would you yourself describe its significance? See **Romans 10:9.**

Apply

Look back over the sections of this study.

13. Have any of them given you a new perspective on Jesus' resurrection?

14. Which of them give you assurance, hope, or inspiration?

15. How could you present the resurrection of Jesus and its significance to unbelievers?



The Implications of the Resurrection

Part Two - For the Believer

Connect

1. Are you looking forward to your own resurrection? If so, what in particular are you looking forward to? What, if anything are you unsure about?

Discover and Apply

It guarantees the believers resurrection

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, Romans 8:11, 1 Peter 1:3

2. What is the connection between Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of the believer?

3. List the implications for us if it were not true. What impact would this have on our life and witness?

Read Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5

4. What does the term "firstborn from the dead" mean?

It promises the redemption of our physical bodies

Read Romans 8:20-25

5. We are familiar with need of our sinful soul to be redeemed but why does our physical body also need to be redeemed?

6. What will it mean for us physically to experience “the redemption of our bodies”? **Verse 23**

7. What does this say about:
 - How God views our bodies now?

 - How we should treat and view our bodies now?

See also **1 Corinthians 6:12-14, Romans 12:1**

It proves the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit

Read Romans 8:11-16

8. What does this tell us about the power living inside us?

9. What are some of the benefits of the indwelling Holy Spirit?

10. What implications does that have for us:
 - When we face temptation?

- When we feel inadequate?

- When we feel condemned by our own sin and failings?

Read Philippians 3:10-14

11. What does Paul mean when says he wants to “know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death”?

12. What impact could living like this have on our lives?

It completes the forgiveness of our sins

Read Romans 10:9 and 10

13. Why is belief in the resurrection so central to our salvation?

Read John 19:30, Acts 2:32-39

*“Note especially **John 19:30**. Jesus’ cry from the cross is “It is finished.” This is the Greek word tetelestai. This word was used in commerce at the time. It was often written across a bill to indicate that the bill was paid in full. The resurrection is the receipt that God gave humanity that Jesus’ death did, indeed, pay the full price of our sins. (The world’s sins are not enough to keep Christ in the grave! His resurrection is proof that our sins are forgiven.)”*

Daniel B Wallace

His death and resurrection are both parts of one act.

14. How does the resurrection demonstrate so completely that our sins are forgiven? How would it be different if he had not risen from the dead?

To finish

15. Spend a few moments reflecting on the impact of Christ's resurrection for humanity. Look back over the four implications of the resurrection for us. Is there one that has particular significance for you?

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