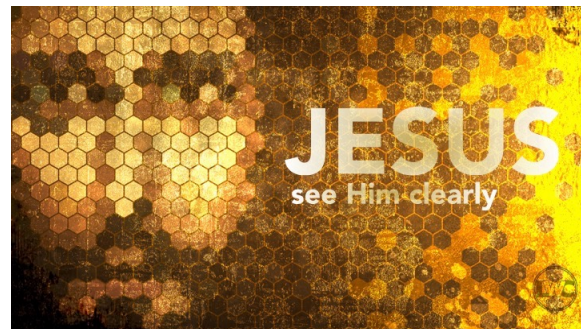




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Jesus-Bodily Resurrection or Spiritual Resurrection?

Introduction: Attempts have been made to “spiritualize” the resurrection of Jesus. Liberal theologians see the resurrection as a story of hope that was read into the gospels to motivate us to become better people. The gospel writers and the apostles think otherwise. To them, the bodily resurrection of Jesus was a true historical event with eternal significance.

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Discussion:

1. Write/Discuss how you feel after you attend a funeral. What are some questions that you have and what do you think about during and immediately after the graveside service?
2. Make a case, using your Bible, that Jesus died and rose again. What scripture evidence can you cite about Jesus dying and rising three days later?
3. Why did the early church begin to worship on the first day of the week? Why is this significant?
4. What is the difference between Lazarus being raised from the dead and Jesus’ resurrection?
5. Read 1 Cor. 15:20,23 What does it mean that Jesus was the “first fruits”?
6. How many eyewitnesses would it take to convict someone or to exonerate someone for a crime? Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-8. How many eyewitnesses were there? What is the significance of the fact that many of them were still living? Write/Discuss
7. What do we learn from the encounter that Jesus had with Thomas after His resurrection? What does this say about a physical or spiritual body? What other circumstances, after the resurrection, point to Jesus having a truly physical body?
8. Read 1 Cor. 15:1-19. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then what does that mean for mankind?
9. What are things that you would die for? Would you die for a lie?

History tells us that all the disciples, other than John, died a martyr’s death for their belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. They gained no fame or fortune for their belief. To save their life, they would simply have to admit that they had lied—that Jesus really did not rise from the dead. They did not. Many people will die for something that they think is true, but it is extremely rare for someone to die for something they know to be a lie.

10. The resurrection guarantees our _____, according to the following scriptures?
1 Peter 1:3, Romans 4:25, 2 Cor. 4:14

Think About it:

Our hope for eternity rest in the resurrection of Christ. If Jesus did not defeat death, then how will we? If Jesus did not have a physical resurrection, then how will we? The answer . . . we won’t. Jesus in fact did rise again and won the victory for all who will trust in Him.

Moving Forward:

Jesus is alive! Easter is not just one Sunday a year, but it’s a celebration every Sunday. This coming Sunday come with the excitement of Easter!! Invite others to join you this Sunday as we celebrate the resurrected Lord! Pray for at least one friend this week who does not know Jesus. Call them or text them and invite them to sit with you this Sunday. Thank God for the victory over sin and death daily and tell His story!