

**House Church Gathering Discussion Questions**  
**Sunday June 14, 2026**  
**“The Empty Tomb (vs. Buddhism/Secularism)”**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

**Summary:** The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul argues that if Christ did not rise from the dead, Christianity is false, faith is useless, and there is no hope beyond death. However, because Jesus truly rose, believers have forgiveness, victory over sin, and the promise of eternal life.

This message stands in contrast to Buddhism and Secularism. Buddhism teaches that humanity's problem is suffering caused by desire, and its goal is liberation from the cycle of rebirth through Nirvana. Secularism teaches that there is no life after death and that meaning must be created within this life alone. Christianity, however, teaches that humanity's deepest problem is sin and separation from God, and that Jesus' death and resurrection provide redemption, restoration, and eternal life.

The empty tomb is not merely a religious symbol—it is the historical event that gives Christians confidence that death has been defeated and that all who trust in Christ will share in His resurrection life.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why does Paul say Christianity falls apart if Jesus did not rise from the dead?
2. How is Christianity's view of salvation different from Buddhism's goal of Nirvana?
3. What hope does the resurrection provide that Secularism cannot offer?
4. How would your daily decisions change if you truly believed death is not the end?
5. What evidence for the resurrection do you find most compelling?