

## Life of Jesus

### Session 14: Glimpses of Resurrection

Here in the West, Jesus is a familiar figure to Christians, but He remains somewhat mysterious. Why did He come? What did He teach? What was He really like? We will be exploring the Life of Jesus in 21 sessions; the first 14 will focus on Jesus' life and ministry in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century and will end around Easter. The last 7 will focus on Jesus' life and ministry in our own century and will take us through the month of May. Let's experience the Life of Jesus together!

**Deep Hope:** May we, together, (re-) fall in Love with the Messiah as we understand, imitate, and experience the Life of Jesus.

#### PART I: Review

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jews lived under Roman Rule, awaiting a Messianic Kingdom.
2. Jesus announced (and proved with miracles!) that the Kingdom was at hand—not an after-death reality, but rather God's rule breaking into our reality.
3. Jesus' miracles show what God's kingdom looks like, and the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' parables tell what it is like!
4. Jesus loved those at the margins of His society—spending time with the sick and the sinners—his disciples were sent out to do the same!
5. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed as the climax of God's story—but only Mary recognized Jesus' Power of Love that conquers all other powers.
6. Jesus gave Himself to His followers, creating a new union between God and man.
7. Jesus destroyed the barriers that kept people from God—and prophesied a day when the building would be destroyed and He and His followers would become the new Temple.
8. Jesus shattered Messianic expectations by giving His life as a sacrifice to redeem from sin and death, not Rome. Suffering and death entered into instead of inflicted on others.

#### PART II: Glimpses of Resurrection

1. **Big Idea:** Jesus tenderly, patiently, and \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrates that His Resurrection has initiated a \_\_\_\_\_ Creation \_\_\_\_\_ the Old—and we are invited to participate.
2. Many Jews anticipated a resurrection of all dead at the end of time, thus ending the age of sin and death. However, Jesus started the Resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ the Age of Sin!
3. Jesus' Resurrection “breaks the cycle” and begins the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of the week: New Creation.
4. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ as before, but also \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus is present, but also living in a \_\_\_\_\_ plane of existence?

6. Is Jesus relieved? You bet. He seems downright playful; is not above \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and you're invited to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Part III: Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Many Jews expected a Resurrection from the dead for all people at the end of time, ending the Age of Sin and Death. What surprising twist did Jesus' Resurrection reveal?
2. We tend to think of New Creation as future, too. But Jesus rises as the first glimpse of the New Creation, which has already started! How is He the same as before? How is He different?
3. Jesus has promised us resurrection, too (1 Cor. 15!); in what ways can Jesus' resurrection help us imagine/visualize our own?
4. Have you ever seen Jesus' tender, joyful, playful side in the Resurrection accounts? Take a moment with your group to read John 21 or Luke 24 and take turns pointing out details that John includes that let you "see" Jesus' deep love, joy, playfulness, and hope for the future.
5. Jesus' Resurrection means we don't just follow Jesus' good example—we have fellowship with Him in the here and now. Has that been your experience, or not? In what ways could you live in a greater awareness of not only Jesus' commands, but His presence?
6. N.T. Wright says "Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." What do you make of this statement? Does it change the way you view the Christian life?
7. What questions has today's exploration left you thinking about?

### **Part IV: Scripture Reading: John 16, Acts 2**

At the Last Supper, Jesus spent some time teaching about a mysterious Helper who was soon to arrive. Some of the last words He speaks before His Ascension are again about power soon to descend. What is going to happen? And who is this Helper Jesus seems so excited about?

**Prayer:** *"Father, thank You for raising Jesus from the dead. Thank You for calling us into Your family that is a living glimpse of something new—unseen before on earth. May we live in a deep awareness of Jesus' presence, and may we reveal to a watching world the joyful plans you have for this world's future. Amen."*