

Small Group Guide for 8/30/26: 1 Corinthians 15: The Resurrection and Its Implications for Our Lives

Key Takeaways

1. The gospel is simple yet profound -- it does not require a complete theological understanding to be believed and received.
2. The bodily resurrection of Christ is not a secondary detail of the faith. It is central to it, and it has direct implications for how we treat our own bodies and how we live now.
3. The resurrection is not just about rescue from sin -- it is about transformation. God does not simply restore what was broken; He makes it new.
4. Our history, identity, and destiny as followers of Jesus are all grounded in the resurrection, and this gives us real, tangible hope for the present and the future.

Opening Question

- What is one thing from this past week that gave you a sense of hope, even in a small or ordinary way?

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Gospel Is Simple Yet Profound (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

1. Paul summarizes the gospel in just a few lines -- Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. Have you ever found yourself making the gospel more complicated than it needs to be? What tends to make it feel complicated?
2. The sermon used the image of a Chinese finger trap -- the solution is to stop straining and simply surrender. In what areas of your faith life are you still straining when you might need to simply let go and trust?
3. Paul describes the resurrection as something that would have been considered foolish or offensive to the Romans, the Greeks, and the Jewish people of the time. In what ways does the gospel still challenge or confound the assumptions of our culture today?
4. Paul calls himself "the least of the apostles" and credits everything to the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). How does Paul's humility here shape the way you think about your own story and what God has done in your life?

Section 2: The Bodily Resurrection Matters (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

5. Paul makes the argument that if there is no resurrection, then our faith is pointless and we are still in our sins. Why do you think the physical resurrection of Jesus is so essential -- not just the idea that his spirit or influence lives on?
6. The sermon noted that the Corinthians were prioritizing their spiritual gifts over their physical bodies, thinking the body was temporary and unimportant. In what ways do we sometimes fall into a similar way of thinking -- treating the spiritual as what really matters and the physical as secondary?
7. Paul says in verse 19 that if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are to be pitied above all people. What do you think he means by that? How does hope in the resurrection change the way you approach suffering, loss, or hardship right now?
8. The sermon drew a distinction between resuscitation and resurrection -- between wanting God to rescue us without wanting Him to change us. Which of those two tends to describe your posture toward God more honestly? What might it look like to move from one toward the other?

Section 3: Transformation and Glory (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

9. Paul uses the image of a seed becoming a plant to describe the resurrection body -- the same living thing, but radically transformed. The sermon also used the image of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. What do these images stir up in you when you think about your own future resurrection?
10. Paul describes the resurrected body as raised imperishable, raised in glory, raised in power (1 Corinthians 15:42-43). What does it do to your sense of dignity and worth to know that your physical body is not something God intends to discard, but to transform and glorify?
11. The sermon pointed out that Paul draws on the creation imagery from Genesis 1 in his description of seeds, animals, birds, fish, sun, moon, and stars. What does it mean to you that God is not abandoning creation but restoring and renewing it? How does that shape the way you think about the world around you?

Section 4: Hope for What Is to Come (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

12. Paul ends with a command: "Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). What does "standing firm" look like practically in your current season of life?

13. The sermon introduced the framework of history, identity, and destiny -- knowing where we came from, who we are now in Christ, and where we are headed. Which of these three tends to feel most unstable or uncertain for you personally? How might a deeper grasp of the resurrection strengthen that area?
14. The sermon closed with the question: "How has the hope you have because of Jesus impacted your life lately?" Take a moment to answer that question as a group. Be as specific and honest as you can.

Closing Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the simplicity of the gospel and the grace that makes it available to anyone who believes.
- Ask God to continue His transforming work in each person in the group -- not just rescue, but resurrection-level change.
- Pray for one another's specific hopes, fears, and areas of struggle in light of what you know about where you are headed in Christ.