

# ***“WHAT’S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT EASTER?”***

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

## **INTRODUCTION**

Easter Sunday serves as a yearly reminder that Jesus died for our sins on Calvary’s Cross, was buried, and on the morning of the third day rose from the dead. The Apostle Paul said: *“Never forget that Jesus Christ was a man born into King David’s family and that he was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach”* (2 Timothy 2:8, NLT). “He is risen”! That is what we celebrate. When all the evidence is in, we can’t help but see what a difference Christ’s resurrection has made in our world and also what a difference the resurrection can make in our personal lives.

**Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min):** What is your favorite Easter tradition?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS HAS TRANSFORMED: THE CROSS AND THE TOMB**

#### **Q1. Read Hebrews 12:2, Colossians 2:13-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18**

In Jesus’ day the cross was far from an object of religious symbolism. It was the instrument of cruel punishment for the guilty. How does Hebrews 12:2 portray Jesus’ view of the cross? What does Colossians 2:14 tell us was accomplished when Christ was nailed to the cross? How would you explain the reason for the two views of the cross referred to in 1 Corinthians 1:18?

#### **Q2. Read Mark 15:46, Luke 24:1-7, Matthew 28:8**

After his death, Jesus body was laid in a tomb (Mark 15:46). The tomb was to be a final destination of the dead, but how did the angels explain the absence of Jesus body to those who came to prepare it with spices? What do you believe was the reason for the joy, the fear and the urgency to tell others what the women experienced after they encountered the empty tomb in Matthew 28:8?

### **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS HAS TRANSFORMED: LIFE**

#### **Q3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Mark 8:35**

The life we live as a child of God is remarkably different from our life before we came to know the resurrected Christ. How does 2 Corinthians

5:15 explain the way in which the death and resurrection of Jesus should impact our lives? If Jesus owns you (1 Corinthians 6:20), in what ways does your life bring God glory? What does Mark 8:35 tell us will result if we try to save our life?

### **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS HAS TRANSFORMED: DEATH**

#### **Q4. Read Romans 6:23, Acts 2:24, John 11:25**

Beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve, death is a debt owed by each of us in payment for our sins. How does this help us understand why Acts 2:24 says it was impossible for Jesus to be held by death? After breaking the power of death, what was Christ able to offer us in John 11:25?

#### **Q5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 23**

The prospect of our own mortality can be a sobering thought. The bodies we are born with are not built to last eternally, but what does 1 Corinthians 15:52 – 53 tell us will happen to these mortal bodies? How does that change depend on Christ’s resurrection according to 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 23? Do you know of someone who should be encouraged with the hope of the resurrection? If so share their name with your group and pray that they will hear the good news this Easter. Then if possible invite them to Easter service with you.

## **WRAP-UP**

At Easter, more than any other time of year, we should be aware that Christ not only died on the cross for us, but that He broke the power of sin and death, and was resurrected as demonstrated by an empty tomb. Because of His death and resurrection our lives have a new purpose: to bring glory to God. And we no longer need fear death, because we will be transformed and raised to live eternally with Him.

## **Memory Verse**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.*

*John 11:25 ESV*

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge:*

*Find someone with whom you can share the good news of Easter this week.*

**Q1.**

Hebrews 12:2 ESV - 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 2:13-14 ESV - 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV - 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Q2**

Mark 15:46 ESV - 46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Read Luke 24:1-7 in your Bible

Matthew 28:8 ESV - 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

**Q3**

2 Corinthians 5:15-17 NASB - 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

1 Corinthians 6:20 ESV - 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Mark 8:35 ESV - 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

**Q4**

Romans 6:23 ESV - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 2:24 ESV - 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

John 11:25 ESV - 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

**Q5**

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 in your Bible

1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 23 NLT - 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. 18 In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! 19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. ... 23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

Prayer requests don't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_