

“Why Christ Had to Rise Again”

The Mysteries of Easter #4

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus died on the cross at Calvary his death was the payment for the sins of the whole world. But as the Old Testament prophecies foretold and the New Testament confirmed, the power of death could not hold him in the grave. And because he rose from the dead, he offers us eternal life through faith in Him. In this study we will consider three reasons why Jesus had to rise again. To begin this study, read the resurrection account in Mark 16:1-8.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

How did you celebrate this Easter?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Christ Rose To Prove His True Identity

Q1 Read Isaiah 53:4-6, 9-10; Luke 9:22; John 11:25-26

The prophesy of Isaiah 53 describes many details about the Messiah, including the fact that after his death (v. 9) God would prolong his days (v. 10). How did Jesus' statement in Luke 9:22 confirm and explain this prophecy? In John 11:25, how did Jesus identify himself to Martha? Now considering John 11:25 – 26, what is the offer to us from the one who calls himself “The Resurrection?” How would you answer His question “Do you believe this?”

Christ Rose To Conquer Sin and Death.

Q2 Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

From the point of man's fall in Eden, humanity has been subject to the law of sin and death. How does the fact of Jesus' resurrection give you a basis for the hope of eternal life? (see 1 Corinthians 15:17-26). In 1 Thessalonians Paul refers to those who have died, as those who have “fallen asleep.” What hope does he offer those who are grieving? (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14) Have you personally experienced the encouragement of this hope in the loss of a loved one? If so, share that experience with your group.

Q3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-55

The culmination of Christ's victory over sin and death will be seen at His second coming (“trumpets will sound”). What is the promise

given both to those who have died in faith, and the believers who are alive at that time in 1 Corinthians 15:52 -54? Knowing our eternal destiny then, how might this motivate you to witness Jesus to unbelievers?

Christ Rose To Live In and Through Us.

Q4 Read John 3:16; John 14:18-19; John 14:23, 26; Galatians 2:20

One thing we know about God without a doubt; He loves us. (John 3:16) As an expression of his boundless love, God has made a way for us to be with him. What do you see in John 14:18-19 that confirms both God's love for you and his desire to be with you? According to John 14:23 and 26, when we love Jesus, who will come to dwell in us? In Galatians 2:20 Paul said "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." How have you seen the purpose and manner of your life change as a result of your faith in Jesus?

WRAP-UP

The celebration of Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In rising from the dead, He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament, revealing to the world his identity as the Messiah. His resurrection demonstrated the power he had to conquer sin and death, so that he could also break its power over us. And because He is alive, He can take up residence in us and live his life through us for his purposes and with his power.

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: _____

Challenge:

For a glimpse of the promise of eternal life with God, read Revelation chapter 21. Do you know someone who needs to be encouraged with the hope of the resurrection?

Introduction

Read Mark 16:1-8 in your Bible

Q1

Isaiah 53:4-5, 9-10 ESV - 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Luke 9:22 ESV - 22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

John 11:25-26 NIV - 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Q2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-26 in your Bible

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ESV - 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Q3

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 ESV - 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts

on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Q4

John 3:16 ESV - 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 14:18-19 ESV - 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

John 14:23, 26 ESV - 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ... 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Galatians 2:20 ESV - 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Prayers for Group Members:
