

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

LEADER'S STUDY

Resurrected Hope

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

What is happening?

Paul wrote this chapter to confirm the truth of the resurrection. Some people taught that Jesus never rose from the dead, causing others in the church to have doubts. But much evidence existed for Christ's resurrection (vv. 6-8), and the idea of resurrection was hardly a new concept. The Old Testament talks about it (e.g., Job 19:25-27; Ps. 71:20; Is. 26:19); Jesus and Martha discuss it in John 11:21-26; and Luke 20:27 tells us that the Sadducees denied the resurrection in any form. So Paul starts off with a reminder that our faith in Christ rests upon His having risen from the dead. Then, beginning in verse 20, he states this was not a one-and-done, but that all who trust in Christ at the time they die will also be resurrected when Christ returns.

Where is the gospel?

In 1 Cor. 15:1-4, Paul distills the essence of the gospel as being the 1) death, 2) burial, and 3) resurrection of Christ, all in accordance with the Jewish scriptures. It's prophesied throughout the Old Testament that: 1) Jesus would **die** to pay the penalty for humanity's sin that none of us can pay for ourselves; 2) He would be **buried** so that no one could deny that He was, in fact, dead; and 3) He would **rise from the grave** to show His power over death—not for Himself alone, but for everyone who puts their faith in Him. Each part of this is historical fact, literally true, and vital for us to believe; this is the gospel that saves. Without all three elements, there is no gospel.

For those who confess their helplessness in the face of their sin and throw themselves upon God's mercy, this gospel is life-transforming truth. For those who shrug and say, "Yeah, whatever. I'm doing pretty well on my own," it's just a religious teaching that does nothing for them—not now, and not in eternity. Those who die in their sins will forever be outside the presence of God, separated from all goodness, grace, mercy, and compassion. But everyone who responds to the gospel in faith and says "Yes!" to Jesus is supernaturally changed in the present, and will live in His loving light for eternity. Christ's resurrection confirms this, and ours is assured by it.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: How does this relate to what Jesus told Nicodemus (John 3:1-15) about the need to be "born again"? Can I actually believe that my body will one day be resurrected like Jesus's was? Am I likely to be disappointed in my new resurrection body? Do I need to ask the Holy Spirit to help me wrap my mind around all this? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 5:21; 6:39-40, 44, 54; 12:23-26; Romans 6:5, 8-9; 8:10-11; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 1 Corinthians 15:42-49
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-
for-thought perspective. (The New Living
Translation is particularly helpful with this
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the
gospel. Look for how this passage
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are
challenging to your current way of
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about
God and His character from this
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and
define them really clearly, then look at
them in context with that definition.
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture
today?**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based
on this passage?**

or

What is your "I will" statement?

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is
often overlooked. If we can share it with
someone else it means we really
understand it, it cements it in our own
minds, it makes us accountable to the
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we
pray about and how should we pray?**