**Why the Resurrection Matters** week of April 8, 2018

Life Group Discussion Questions

**Interact with Lee Strobel’s statement. What questions does he raise for you? What hadn’t you considered? What encourages you?**

*In 1990 archaeologists in Jerusalem uncovered the burial grounds of Caiaphas, Jesus' chief accuser. Nobody has ever uncovered the body of Jesus Christ.*  *History tells us Jesus' body was laid to rest in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea, and that the tomb was sealed. A heavy boulder was rolled in front of it, and it was guarded by elite Roman guards.*

*Yet, it was discovered empty on Easter morning, quite significantly, by some women. The fact that the Bible says women discovered the tomb empty lends even more credibility to these accounts, because women had low status in Jewish society at that time. If the disciples were fabricating this story, surely, they would have claimed it was men who discovered the tomb empty because their testimony would have been more credible in that culture. This is one more indication that the writers were committed to recording exactly what took place, even though that bit of historical truth didn't help their case.*

*More importantly, Jesus' opponents admitted the tomb was empty...when they bribed the guards at the tomb to say the disciples stole the body while they were asleep... If the guards were sleeping, how did they know it was the disciples who stole the body?*

*And even if it a case could be made that the disciples did steal the body, why did all of them chose death for a charade? If theirs had been a conspiracy, certainly one of them would have broken ranks under the pain of torture and told the truth. But it never happened.*

*All Jesus’ opponents had to do was produce the dead body of Jesus Christ and that would have silenced all suggestions that Jesus lived. But they didn’t because they couldn’t. There was no body. History's unanimous testimony is that on Easter morning the tomb was empty.*

http://www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/sermons/2010/july/thetruthabouttheressurrection.html

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

How can a Christian avoid believing the gospel in vain? v.1-2.

Why is it important to “hold firmly to the word?” v.2.

Why did Paul pass on what he had received? v.3.

What are the key points of the gospel? v.3-8.

To whom did Jesus appear after his resurrection? v.5-8.

Why did Paul describe himself as one ‘abnormally’ born? v.10.

On what did Paul’s apostleship rest?

In your own words, how would you describe the importance of the gospel to you?

What does it mean for you to hold firmly to the gospel?

In what areas of your life are you holding tight? holding loosely?

What evidence could you use to persuade others about the truth of the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, what would be true of Christianity and Christians?

What hope does Jesus’ resurrection provide for your day to day life? Be specific.

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Why must all physical bodies be changed, even those who have not died?

What difference does it make to you that death has been defeated by Christ?

How does the resurrection of Jesus impact your priorities? Be specific.

How are you encouraged to know that the work you do for the Lord is not in vain?

Interact with the four principles from Sunday as to why the resurrection of Jesus makes a difference.

**1. Because Jesus lives he is Lord**

John 20:25-28

Acts 2:36

Philippians 2:9-11

The most basic confession made by those who follow Jesus is that ‘he is Lord.’

That said, this confession is utter nonsense without the resurrection.

To rule in heaven and on the earth, requires Jesus to be alive to do the job.

**2. The resurrection proves God is just and Jesus is holy**

If Jesus had stayed dead then it would have appeared that God agreed with them, since God himself had said, anyone who hangs on a tree is under his curse. But God did not agree with the religious leaders that Jesus was a criminal. The fact that God would not let his ‘holy one see decay’ (Psalm 16:10) is the proof that in God’s eyes Jesus’ life was without flaw. And so, with the resurrection, God reversed the unjust sentence pronounced upon Jesus by Pilate.

**3. Because Jesus lives he intercedes for those who put their trust in him**

Hebrews 7:25

What does Jesus ask the Father to do for us?

**4. Because of the resurrection of Jesus death is defeated**

1 Corinthians 15:26 says, *“The last enemy to be defeated is death.”* At the return of Jesus, the saying that is written will finally come true, 1 Corinthians 15:54, *“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”* Because of the resurrection, we wait, with hope, and with patience, for the return of Jesus, when he will kill death.

It is true - Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin.

But we need to add – and Jesus rose from the dead to conquer death.

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-just-prove-resurrection-talk-matters/>