



Community Group Discussion Guide

November 23, 2104

Week 5 | Can I Have Confidence in the Resurrection?
Selected Scripture

Introduction

From its beginning the early Church faced intense opposition. Read any one of the letters to these men and women who were among the first to follow Christ and you can't miss the extreme challenge that was theirs to persevere through persecution.

Read these same letters and you'll find repeated encouragements for these believers to not only persevere, but to also be wise and bold in sharing their faith. A good example is what Peter wrote in the third chapter of his first letter:

Even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be afraid. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:14-15

What Peter is taking about here is apologetics. It's equipping ourselves so we're able to give a clear explanation and convincing defense of what we believe. This is what we'll be doing in this five week series we've title "Prepared."

Questions for Study

1. Start off by reading 1 Corinthians 15:14. How big of a deal is Christ's resurrection for the Christian faith? Why is Christ's resurrection so central?
2. Have you ever heard someone challenge the Christian belief in Christ's resurrection? Explain. What was the question or challenge? Were any responses suggested?
3. Jeff provided several reasons supporting a firm belief in Christ's resurrection. Which of these were new to you? Which of these did you find most helpful?
4. This week was all about showing that Christ was resurrected – He was raised bodily from the grave. This isn't just an intellectual truth. The reality of the resurrection should motivate us to TURN to Jesus, to WORSHIP Him, and to GO on mission for Him. What is it about the resurrection that should lead to these sorts of responses?
5. Choose ONE of the right ways to respond to Christ's resurrection listed above. How can you apply this right response in a very practical way in your life this week?
6. What are your big take-aways – either of this particular sermon or of the larger "Prepared" series we've been in?
7. A goal of this "Prepared" series is to equip ourselves so we're able to give a clear explanation and convincing defense of what we believe. Review what we've covered in this series so far. How has what you've learned helped towards this goal? Have you had any chances to discuss what you've been learning with people who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ?