

## The Importance of the Resurrection

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Hebrews 2:14-15

#### Discussion Questions

1. How important is the Resurrection Day to you?
2. Jesus died on the cross before sunset on a Friday. Joseph from Arimathea asked for his body, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes for Jesus' body as part of their custom in preparing the body of a dead person. They rested on the Sabbath. The tomb was well guarded, two nights passed and on Sunday morning Jesus rose. The women came to the tomb with prepared spices and perfumes, but were shocked to find the tomb open and the body of Jesus missing. Then two angels appeared and asked them why they were looking for the living among the dead, which confused the women. Why were the women confused and why couldn't they grasp what the angels told them? Share how you would have reacted to the angels if you were with those women.
3. The angels told the women that Jesus was not there; He has risen! They reminded them what Jesus had said: "the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." The women remembered and went home to tell the disciples about what the angels told them. When Jesus died, the disciples were lost and sad, but after Jesus' resurrection and seeing Him in His resurrected body and witnessed His ascension to heaven, they were indeed glad. No one could stop them from preaching the message of the resurrection to others. Why is resurrection essential to the Christian's faith? Discuss why in spite of the fact that the gospel is such good news; many Christians are reluctant to share about it to others? What should be done to overcome it?
4. There are six important reasons why Jesus being risen from the dead

matters:

- a. Jesus' resurrection proves that He is really who said He is (Matthew 27:39-42). His opponents charged Jesus with treason for claiming that He is the rightful king of Israel. They also charged Him with blasphemy against God for claiming that He is the Son of God. And these opponents thought that Jesus was outrageous when He told them that the temple would be destroyed and rebuilt in three days (referring to His death and resurrection). How did these opponents react after the resurrection? How do you react when others reject you when you share your faith with them? Should their rejection discourage you from sharing?
- b. Jesus' resurrection proves His power to overcome death. When Jesus died bearing our sins, he went beyond death and overcame it. Romans 6:9 says that death has no longer dominion over Him. He is the first fruit from the dead. Death cannot touch Him anymore. Why is Jesus resurrection different from Lazarus? Discuss why people are so afraid to die. As a Christian, why should you not be afraid of death?
- c. Jesus' resurrection proves that God has accepted Jesus' death as payment for your sin. I Corinthians 15:14 says that "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Jesus claimed that He was the divine Son of God and the messiah of Israel. He claimed that He had the power to forgive sin. Many others have claimed similar things but came short. They passed on the scene but never heard from them again. Why did Jesus' resurrection prove that He was no fraud but proved that everything He said was true? What would be factual or true of Christianity if Christ had not been raised up from the dead? How are you justified in the sight of God as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection?
- d. Jesus' resurrection reveals the future pattern of our redemption. I Corinthians 15:20 say "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Christ has opened a new path for us. He went through death and defeated it. He is the first in resurrection, but will not be the last. When you put your trust in Jesus Christ, you start to follow His path. How does His death and resurrection picture in baptism? What hope does Jesus' resurrection make available for your daily life? Discuss the things that you don't need to worry about when someday you receive a resurrected body?
- e. Jesus' resurrection reveals God's power that is in us already. This

power is available to us through prayer. Share how you have asked God by faith for something that you could have not done on your own, but by His power your prayer was answered.

- f. Jesus' resurrection is a warning (Acts 17:30-31). His resurrection does two things in proclaiming judgment to all mankind: First, physical death is not the final existence of man; and since Jesus' resurrection has overcome the power of death, there must be life beyond it so no one can afford to go unprepared for what lies on the other side of death. Second, His resurrection proves that He is the future judge of all mankind. Jesus is sinless and so He is the only one who can judge sinners. He is the only person worthy to judge. And because He is the only one who can judge, there is no other way to be saved from sin but only through faith in Him. How could someone prepare himself or herself for the final judgment of God? What would you say when He asks you, "Have you sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?" "Have your sins been paid for?" What would your answers be? If you do not know what would your answers are, remember that Jesus said that He is the only way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Him.

### Walk

Resurrection Sunday is the historic miracle about the truth that God has victory over death and made eternal life available to every single human being. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. If you have done it, rejoice because it is a great day! But if you haven't done it yet, it would be great to do it now. As a Christian, how would you integrate the truth of Christ's resurrection into your daily testimony to others?

### Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, my heart is overwhelmed with gratefulness that You sent Your Son to die for my sin. He paid for my sin with His life on the cross, but He didn't remain dead, because on the third day after His death, He rose! What joy and wonderful assurance that my Savior lives! Thank you that my Savior continues to be with me through the Holy Spirit. And one day, when He asks me if I have sinned and fallen short of Your glory, I will say yes. But my sins have been paid for. And because I have put my trust in Jesus Christ's alone as my Savior, I am saved and have eternal life. Thank you Lord. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*