

# Jesus, Part 17

# Resurrection

## Easter Celebration

### Show of hands:

- Who here celebrates Easter?
- Who does Easter egg decorating or Easter egg hunts?
- Who eats Easter candy?

### Say:

- So why do people celebrate at Easter time?...
- There is a very important reason that many people celebrate at Easter!...
  
- Last time we talked about Jesus' crucifixion. But, that is not the end of the story...
- Jesus rose again.
- And, as Christians, that gives us real reason to celebrate!
  
- Let's read in Luke 24 which talks about some people visiting the empty tomb...

## Luke 24:1-12

Read **Luke 24:1-12** (while everyone follows along in Bibles)

**Say:** The women went to the tomb to use the spices they bought on Jesus' body.

### Ask:

- Why were the women surprised when they went to the tomb?
- What did the angel say to them in verses 5-7?
- What did the women do after the angel told them these things?
- What does verse 11-12 say their reaction was?

## Trouble Believing

### Say:

- Later, after the apostles saw Jesus raised from the dead, they believed.
- But an initial response was not to believe.

**Ask:** Why do you think the apostles had trouble believing Jesus rose from the dead and why do you think many people, nowadays, have trouble believing that Jesus rose again?

# Reasons to Believe

**Ask:** What are some reasons or evidence that could help people believe that Jesus rose from the dead - like the angel said in the passage we read and like other passages in the Bible say?

**Share any of these reasons that teens don't:**

1. There was the **empty tomb**. Peter ran to see and came to an empty tomb where there had been an entrance that was sealed and guarded.
2. There were many **eyewitnesses** to Jesus risen from the dead, several different times.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 says "he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (ESV)
  - That is a lot of people for it to have been something like a hallucination or a mistake!
3. The **disciples were willing to die** instead of denying Jesus had risen from the dead.
4. And, a fourth evidence is **changed lives**.
  - a. Before the resurrection, Peter was afraid and denied Jesus. After the resurrection, Peter was bold to share about Jesus in the face of prison and death.
  - b. Tons of people throughout history and continuing today have seen Jesus work in their lives to help them overcome sin and make them into new people.

**Say:** There is some good evidence to trust in Jesus' resurrection.

## Significance

**Say:**

- So what's so important about Jesus' resurrection?...
- Turn over to 1 Corinthians 15:3...

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4** (while everyone follows along)

**Ask:** What important things did Paul say he delivered to them in these verses?

**Say:**

- He then goes on to mention in verses 5-8 about people Jesus appeared to.
- Now let's skip down to verse 14...

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-18** (while everyone follows along)

**Say:**

- In context, it seems the people Paul was talking to may have believed Jesus had been raised, but had trouble believing that other people would be raised from the dead.
- Either way, the things he says would be true if Jesus wasn't raised from the dead...

**Ask:** So, what does Paul say would be true if Jesus wasn't raised?

**Share any of these things that teens don't mention:**

- If Jesus wasn't raised, then faith in Jesus would be in vain - pointless.
- If Christ wasn't raised from the dead, people would still be in their sin.
- And, if He wasn't raised, then those who had died in Christ would have perished. (And from what the Bible says, we know that dying in our sins would make us deserve not just physical perishing, but eternal punishment.)

**Say:**

- Without the resurrection, there would be no good news.
- But, let's continue with what Paul says in verses 20-22...

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

**Say:** Christ was raised from the dead and those who are in Christ will be made alive.

## Reason to Celebrate

**Ask:** So, based on these verses and other things the Bible says, why is Jesus' resurrection a reason for Christians to celebrate?

**Share any of these reasons that teens don't:**

- Because those who are in Christ will be made alive. (v 22)
- Because Jesus rose again our faith is not in vain. (opposite of v 17)
- Because He rose again we know Christians are not in our sin. (opposite of v 17)
- Those who have died in Christ have not eternally perished. (opposite of v 18)

**Say:**

- Jesus' resurrection is the reason we can have real hope.
- Because of Jesus' resurrection, Christians have reason to celebrate!
  
- By Jesus' death on the cross, He paid for sin.
- Then He rose again showing that He has conquered death.
- He ascended into heaven and is coming again.

## Tragedy of Death

**Say:**

- Just think about this: Funerals are a time when people are sad for those who have died.
- Death is a tragedy.
- It is a result of sin.
- And, from Scripture, we realize that physical death is not the end, but those who die apart from God's forgiveness in Christ actually have punishment in hell and eternal separation from God.
  
- But, the reason we can have confident hope as Christians, is knowing that because Jesus died for sin and rose again, those who trust in Him as their Savior and Lord will have eternal life with Him.

# How Should We Respond?

**Say:** So, how should we respond?...

- If we have trusted Jesus as our Lord and Savior...
  - We can thank Jesus for what He has done to die for our sin and praise Him for who He is - our living Savior and King.
  - We can live with hope, knowing death is not the end.
  - We can love Him and serve Him.
  - And, we can share the good news of what Jesus has done and the eternal life He made possible with others.
  
- If you are not a Christian...
  - Realize that apart from Jesus you are dead in your sin.
  - Because of sin, we deserve eternal separation from God in hell.
  - But, the good news is that Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin... and rose again.
  - Admit you are sinful and turn from your sin and turn to God.
  - Trust that Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again.
  
- Like Romans 10:9 says: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." *(NIV)*
  
- If you have questions about that, please talk to me or another leader or Christian.

## Closing Prayer

### *Reference:*

The "Reasons to Believe" section might be from an unknown source.

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