

Home Group Discussion Guide for Resurrection Sunday: From The Ashes

Luke 24:1-12

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message shared in the AM service on Sunday. Diving deeper into what was shared, but also challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.

These questions are designed as a guide to help lead discussion. **Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked**, instead respond to the needs of your group.

GETTING STARTED

1. Do you have a moment of unexpected victory/ a major comeback? Take the opportunity to share it with the group.
2. What was the main challenge or idea that stood out to you from Sunday's message?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Key Scriptures: *Luke 24:1-12, Colossians 2:13-15; Philippians 3:10-12*

1. What are some of the reasons why you trust the resurrection?
(Some of the reasons Gavin shared on Sunday are over the page)
2. How do Paul's words in Colossians 2:13-15 help us to understand the resurrection?
3. Even though we may currently live in a broken world. The resurrection speaks of hope and new possibilities. How have you seen this hope in your life already?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. Is there something in your life currently that you need to invite the resurrection power of Jesus into?
2. What is the one thing God is inviting you to take notice of from this message? What are you going to do about it?

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Our Home Groups are the primary place for pastoral care to occur within the Church. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for each other in this space.



11 Reasons Why The Resurrection Isn't 'Legendary'

1. The gospels are written within several decades of the events they record which is not enough time for significant legendary buildup to occur.
2. The gospels were written in a hostile environment which would hold in check the development of legendary growth.
3. If legendary growth was to have emerged we would expect to find it in the later written works but not in the earlier, however the earlier works are filled with just as much miraculous material as the later.
4. The resurrection is testified by five independent sources who refer to numerous other sources each with unique material. These are found in the Bible, the most historically scrutinized literary work in the history of the world.
5. The location of Jesus' tomb was well known by all, so if Jesus had not risen from the dead this could have been easily checked out by both motivated parties:
 - Jesus' followers (who would suffer persecution for their faith) and,
 - The opponents of Jesus (who would want to falsify the Christian claim)
 - Yet all parties agreed that the tomb was empty.
6. The resurrection narratives lack the characteristics common to late legendary material, but common to eye-witness reports. Well known people like Joseph of Arimathea are *named*. If you are going to fabricate an account, you don't create this kind of detail with people who can easily be cross-examined!
7. The resurrection narratives contain counterproductive material. Legends lack this. The role of women (in a first-century context) do nothing but *damage* the testimony of the authors.
8. The conversion of Paul is unexplainable except on the basis he himself gives: He confronted the risen Lord (Acts 9). This was a man dead set against Christianity, then in one moment he converted.
9. Paul himself gives us an early list of the resurrection appearances (1 Cor 15). This was written 15-20 years after the resurrection, and he notes more than 500 witnesses "most of whom are still living" (v6) – he was pointing to living evidence.
10. Without resurrection there is no way of accounting for the transformation of the disciples. One day they are fearful and hiding; the next they are facing hostile audiences, preaching the resurrection.
11. There is no motive for the disciples to fabricate the story. They had nothing to gain and everything to lose. There is nothing to suggest they were disposed to or even capable of pulling off such an incredible fabrication, even if they had wanted to.