



## STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, April 20, 2025

**Teaching Title:** This Changes Everything

**Key Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:3–7

# CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Matthew 28:1–20

**Tuesday:** Mark 16:1–8

**Wednesday:** Luke 24:1–35

**Thursday:** John 20:1–29

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 15:1–58

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

### MEMORY TOPIC:

Resurrection

### MEMORY VERSE:

John 11:25 NLT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction:

For Christians, Easter is the most significant holiday because the resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Sometimes, we need to pause and remind ourselves of this incredible truth. The resurrection isn't just a powerful moment in history—it's a real event with life-altering implications. It's the moment that changes everything. The resurrection of Jesus confirms that He is exactly who He claimed to be—God in the flesh and the only way to the Father. This isn't just a casual belief for Christians; it's an invitation to faith, hope, and a transformed life in Him. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul reminds the Corinthians of this profound truth, as false teachings about the resurrection were spreading in their churches. Jesus rose from the dead—and we will also share in that resurrection! Through Jesus, God has given us victory over death and despair. This truth isn't just something we believe with our minds—it's something we live out daily. Jesus conquered death so that you and I could truly live.

#### Questions:

Icebreaker—Share a moment in your life that "changed everything"—whether big or small. What made it so impactful for you?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 together as a group. Many people say they believe in the resurrection but haven't really explored the evidence. Have you ever taken time to investigate it yourself? What did you find convincing or challenging? (See Digging Deeper)
2. According to this passage, what key elements of the gospel does Paul emphasize? Why are these so vital for believers?
3. What remains of the gospel if the resurrection didn't actually happen?
4. How do verses 3–11 support the historical reality of the resurrection?

5. Paul says he is the least of all the apostles. But according to 1 Corinthians 15:11, what do all the apostles have in common?
6. Sometimes a church can affirm the truth of the gospel (right doctrine) but struggle to live it out. What does it look like to live out the reality of the resurrection in our daily lives?
7. What would it look like for you to trust Jesus even when life doesn't go the way you hoped? Pastor Neal said, "We want a fixer, but Jesus came to make us new." If you truly believed that, how might it change the way you respond to your current situation?

## **Digging Deeper**

In 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, Paul gives historical evidence for the resurrection. Here is more evidence from the New Testament:

### **Evidence for the Resurrection**

#### **Post-Resurrection appearances:**

- Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18)
- "The Women" (Matt. 28:8–10)
- Cleopas & a companion, Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)
- Disciples minus Thomas (John 20:19–25; Luke 24:36–43)
- 8 days after Easter, Disciples plus Thomas (John 20:26–29)
- 7 Disciples at Sea of Galilee (John 21:1–23)
- Paul in Acts 9
- 500 Disciples at a large gathering (1 Cor. 15:6)
- Disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16–18)
- James (1 Cor. 15:7)
- Ascension – appeared to "all the apostles" (Luke 24:49–53; Acts 1:3–11)

**Historical Evidence of the Resurrection** —These are facts about the resurrection that scholars (secular and Christian) agree on according to Dr. William Lane Craig and Dr. Peter Kreeft:

FACT #1: After His crucifixion, Jesus was buried in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea.

FACT #2: On the Sunday following the crucifixion, Jesus' tomb was found empty by a group of His women followers.

Jesus was executed publicly.

Jesus' tomb was secure.

His grave was empty; no competing stories of this site.

FACT #3: On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead.

Those who saw Him, demonstrate a remarkable change.

Jewish believers started to worship on Sunday.

They developed communities and practices that focused on His resurrection: communion and baptism.

FACT #4: The original disciples believed that Jesus was risen from the dead despite their having every predisposition to the contrary.

- These witnesses were willing to die for their belief.
- No one, weak or strong, saint or sinner, Christian or heretic, ever confessed, freely or under pressure, bribe or even torture, that the whole story of the resurrection was a fake or a lie, a deliberate deception.
- If they made up the story, they were the most creative, clever, intelligent fantasists in history.
- There is no possible motive for such a lie. Lies are told for selfish advantage – the disciples were hated, persecuted, excommunicated, imprisoned, tortured, crucified, boiled alive, beheaded, and fed to lions.
- Hallucinations usually only last a few seconds/minutes not 40 days.
- The disciples didn't expect this, nor did they believe it at first.