

Connection

Where do you like to go to "get away from it all" for a few hours? Why does that place refresh you?

Cheer and Challenge

How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.

Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

A. The Disciples' Experience of the Resurrection

Immediately after Jesus' execution on the cross, the disciples felt hopeless. Why?

Read John 20:1-10. How did this morning change everything for the disciples?

What must have been going on in their minds as they went home from their visit to the empty grave?

B. Paul's Explanation of the Resurrection

Read I Corinthians 15:1-8. What does Paul say is "most important" here? Write it below in uppercase letters:

I Corinthians 15:12-19. Paul is exercising extreme logic in this section. Draw below a flow chart diagramming the progression of thought expressed in these verses.

In I Corinthians 15:32 Paul offers the logical course of action if the resurrection of Jesus didn't actually happen. What does he suggest? What does the expression of that kind of thinking look like in our culture today?

The hinge point of Christianity is given in I Corinthians 15:20. Write this key truth here in uppercase letters:

C. The truth you transcribed above has implications for you in three areas of your life:

1. The Resurrection Gives You New Life

Read Revelation 21:5. As you survey your life, what specific areas feel like they are "dead" and need to be made new? (Examples: work, relationships, emotions)

Re-read Revelation 21:5 and pray over the areas you listed above, asking Jesus to touch each of these with His resurrection power.

2. The Resurrection Gives You a Satisfied Life

Read Revelation 21:6 and John 7:37. What kind of "thirsts" does Jesus satisfy?

Which of these have you personally experienced?

3. The Resurrection Gives You Eternal Life

Revelation 21:1-4. What strikes you as the best part of the good news that is given in these verses?

Commitment

What is one thing you want to remember or act on from this week's study?

"I will _____."



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Pray each day this week for a friend who needs to experience the new life, satisfied life and eternal life that Jesus gives.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. Explore the powerful 3 word sentences listed below in light of the celebration of Easter.

"It is Finished":

- Read John 19:28-30. How does the death of Jesus free you from guilt and shame and give you a firm foundation of God's love and acceptance?
- Read Hebrews 10:12-18. What implications are found with respect to it "being finished"? How will you live your life differently knowing the sacrifice was made by Jesus once and for all?

Article: What did Jesus mean, "It is finished"? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/it-is-finished.html>)

"He is Risen":

- What did Jesus' resurrection accomplish for you? (Rom. 5:10; 6:1-14; 8:1-4,11; 10:9-10).
- What difference does or should Jesus' resurrection make in your life and the way you respond to your circumstances?
- How does it or should it influence your perspective on joy and struggles?

Activity: Listen to the song, "Because He Lives". Pray with thanks and ask for strength to cling to hope because He lives. Consider creating a playlist of songs that speak to the death and resurrection of Jesus and the hope offered in Him.

Because He Lives (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=La9Zy917JcQ>)

2. What are the action verbs in Colossians 1:12-14 that paint a picture of salvation? Who performs each action? Read the verses again and pay attention to the contrast between darkness and light. Why do you think Paul uses this contrast to portray the readers' past and future? What is the "inheritance of the saints of light"?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, contemplate what is holding you back.

- Could it be a sense of self-sufficiency? Read II Timothy 4:3-4 and John 6:68. How do these verses speak to this?
- Could the hypocrisy of others who call themselves "Christians" be tripping you up? Read Titus 1:16a to see how seriously God takes it when His followers don't represent Him.
- Read Acts 3:19-20 and consider the Lord's invitation to you. Might today be the day that you set aside the things which are holding you back and embrace Jesus' offer of salvation? (If you do not yet understand what salvation is, ask a member of your group to help you or email groups@visitccc.com.)

If you are a follower of Jesus, how does this description of how God rescued you from darkness and brought you into the light lead you to thankfulness?

Music: Listen to the songs below and then spend time thanking God for salvation.

- Light of the World (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCRUnZGYBi4>)
- Passion - Glorious Day (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hukv7EBc030>)
- Rescuer (Good News) by Rend Collective -
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leh-4fCc5MI>)