

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

STUDY GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-26

The Resurrection of Jesus is the central event of the Christian account of the world. Over and over again, the early church and specifically the apostles, proclaim the message of Easter as the event which must be dealt with by everyone. It was attested to by hundreds of eye-witnesses who held to their testimony even under the threat of death. It was, according to Paul in numerous places, the clearest declaration of the identity of Jesus, as well as the explanation for the meaning of his death. How one responds to the message of the resurrection determines how one will respond to the rest of Jesus' message. If Jesus is not raised from the dead then we remain in our sins, death has not been conquered, and in reality Jesus doesn't matter that much.

But if he actually came out of the grave, then absolutely everything changes. Death has been conquered. Sin has been dealt with. God's wrath in response to sin which results in death is removed from all those who are in Jesus. And everything, absolutely everything, will be made new again. As Samwise says in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, "All that is sad will come untrue."

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-26 aloud together.

- 1) Did anything from the passage / sermon stick out to you – something you liked, disagreed with or didn't understand? Try to summarize the main idea of the passage / sermon.
- 2) Why does atonement for sin have to be made? Why can't God just forgive?
- 3) Why is it so important that Jesus actually came out of the grave?

This would be a good time to break into smaller groups of guys & girls. After working through the question take some time to pray for each member of your group.

- 4) *Exercise Questions:* How does/should the resurrection and God's renewal of all things impact the way you see the world and live your life?
- 5) Describe what you will do with what God has shown you through this text. How do you need His help to do this?