



FIRST IMPORTANCE

#npeaster1018

Week 1

1 of 1

April 1, 2018

Bottom Line: The Resurrection proved that Jesus and everything He said is true.

Icebreaker: Did you play an April Fool's prank today? If so, what was it? Or tell the most unbelievable thing about you that is actually true.

Key Verse: *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James and all of the apostles . . .* 1 Corinthians 15:1-7a NIV

Wise people make decisions based on evidence. The evidence for the resurrection is convicting and convincing evidence. The written testimony that Jesus rose from the dead is based on plentiful eyewitness testimonies, written within a very few years of the death and resurrection of Jesus. So many people were still alive who could have refuted the accounts, but no one did. They were true! And this is absolutely vital because everything we believe either stands or falls on the resurrection. Paul says that the truth of the resurrection is THE matter of first importance. If Jesus verifiably rose from the dead, then everything else He said and promised is true. If He didn't defeat death and come out of the grave alive, there is no foundation for anything else we believe.

Paul knew the evidence was clear and accurate. He was so certain of it that his entire life validated his belief. He had no concern for protecting his own life. His only aim was to complete the task of testifying to the good news of Jesus Christ. He had found out through the power of the resurrection that his past could be forgiven, his present issues and problems managed, and his future secure. The same power and privilege are ours through the resurrection of Jesus. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us! (Romans 8:11).

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Discuss: "If the resurrection is true, it is game on. If the resurrection is not true, it is game over."

Discuss: "The witnesses to the resurrection were so convinced that they talked of believers who had died as ones who had fallen asleep . . ."

Discuss: "Paul confidently saying Jesus rose from the dead on the third day would be like one of us confidently saying the events of September 11 happened. In both instances, many people were still alive who could either agree or dispute the facts."

Discuss: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ created Christianity."

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What does it mean to you that no problem is too big for God because He has already solved man's biggest problem—sin?

In your experience, how have you experienced that true faith is not flimsy but has steel in it?

Did you personally struggle with belief in the resurrection before you committed your life to Christ? Why or why not?

How does the evidence of the timing of the writing and the documented hundreds of witnesses bolster your faith?

How does the fact that the early disciples couldn't repress the news of the resurrection even in the face of threats of personal harm/death impact your faith?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Share together the names of people you know who are currently unconvinced that Jesus rose from the dead and His promises are true.
2. Pray for their eyes to be opened to truth.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The Resurrection proved that Jesus and everything He said is true.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-7a

Tuesday: Acts 4:10-13

Wednesday: Ephesians 1:20

Thursday: 1 John 5:11-13

Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)