

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

RISEN

1 Corinthians 15:12-18

April 22-24, 2011



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion – The first week of every month is Communion week in our small groups. We hope you will participate with us as we carry out one of the ordinances commanded by Jesus himself. If you need help or have any questions in administering this sacrament, please contact john.darrow@therocksandiego.org.

MEMORY VERSES

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” (1 Cor. 15:16-17 ESV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – RISEN

Getting Started

1. Review the 3 points of RISEN as listed in the lesson plan:
 1. The Resurrection provides a foundation for **faith**.
 2. The Resurrection provides the opportunity to be **forgiven**.
 3. The Resurrection provides the opportunity to live **forever**.
2. How is the truth and promise found in the resurrection of Jesus impacted and changed your view of God?

Digging Deeper

Read 1 Cor. 15:12-19 as a group, then note the following statements Paul makes regarding the resurrection:

If Christ has not been raised then:

1. There is no resurrection at all, vv. 13, 16
2. Our preaching is vain, v. 14
3. Your faith is vain, v. 14
4. They are false witnesses, v. 15
5. Your faith is worthless, v. 17
6. You are still in your sins, v. 17
7. Those that have died have gone, v. 18
8. We are of all men most to be pitied, v. 19

This theological issue of the resurrection of Christ is no minor issue either; he is alive or Christianity is a lie!

The source of this denial of the resurrection probably had its origin in Greek philosophy, which thought the physical body was the source of evil. It is textually uncertain whether they were denying the resurrection of Christ or the resurrection of all believers. This was not a unique problem in the early church (cf. 2 Tim. 2:18).

1. Have you ever considered the truth of the fact that your faith is rooted in the reliability of the resurrection?

Consider the response leading atheist philosopher Christopher Hitchens had when interviewed by a "Christian" interviewer when the interviewer says, "I don't believe in the doctrine of atonement (that Jesus died for our sins, for example)," Hitchens produces, completely off the cuff, an incredible defense of the necessity for Christians to believe in the resurrection. The best line, perhaps, is when he taunts her: "If all Christians were like you, I wouldn't have to write the book." Ouch!

Even an atheist acknowledges it is all or nothing. If we deny the resurrection, we essentially deny the truth of Jesus.

2. Are there any people, worldviews, books, or questions you have, that challenge your belief in the resurrection? If so, what are the objections?
3. Consider how resurrection differs from other religious view of reincarnation, and discuss if any of these clash with your understanding of the resurrection:

Reincarnation

Roots in Eastern religion
Can have many physical lives
At death, body reborn into another body
No resurrection
Can save self
All eventually saved
Have many chances
No separation from God
No hell

Resurrection

Roots in Judaism
Only one physical life
At death, only soul remains until resurrection
Resurrection
Saved by grace
Not all saved
Only one chance
Can be separated from God
Hell exists