

LOVE WINS – LIFE Group Study Guide

Easter Sunday – LOVE WON!

Pastor Miles McPherson – March 27, 2016



This past weekend, we celebrated the most significant event in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ! In today's study, we'll examine two topics: the resurrection, and who Jesus really is. As followers of Jesus, what we believe about these topics really matter!

Opening Discussion:

[NOTE: These opening questions aren't a time for debate or correcting someone's view – let each person share their thoughts!]

1. Who do you believe that Jesus is?
2. How did you come to that understanding of Jesus?

Digging Deeper:

→ Read Matthew 16:13-16

Jesus raises the question of his identity to his disciples:

3. What were they hearing the crowds saying about Jesus?
4. What did Peter's response mean? *[see endnote for more info]*

→ Read John 1:1-3, 14

5. Who is the Word?
6. What do these verses say about the Word?
7. Based on these verses, is Jesus God?

[If you need to keep going on the topic of the deity of Jesus, look up: Isaiah 9:6, Colossians 1:15-20, Colossians 2:9, John 5:18, John 10:30-33]

→ Read John 20:24-29

8. Why did Thomas go from a skeptic to a believer when he encountered Jesus raised from the dead?
9. Jesus predicted his resurrection to the disciples multiple times, but they didn't believe until they saw him for themselves.

→ Read Mark 8:31, Mark 9:31 and Mark 10:34



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10. What difference does it make whether or not Jesus raised from the dead?

→ **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

11. What do you believe about the resurrection of Jesus?

12. How does your belief about Jesus' identity and resurrection affect your life today?

NOTE: This weekend the *"I Doubt It"* series begins. Invite your friends to join you at one of the Rock campuses for this challenging look at some of the troubling questions in life!

Take it Home:

Spend time each day this week looking up the verses in this week's study (especially those you didn't get through as a group). Ask God to open your understanding to the truths in his Word and how they affect your everyday life. Take a few minutes each day to write your response to the truths about Jesus' deity and resurrection, and spend time praising and thanking him for the life that you have because Jesus went to the cross on your behalf and raised from the dead!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Endnotes:

Matthew 16:13-16: Speaking for the disciples, **Peter** spoke his now-famous words, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**. As "the Christ," He is the Messiah. *Ho christos* is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament *māšîaḥ*, which means "the anointed One." In Him are fulfilled all the promises of God to the nation. And as the Old Testament made clear, the Messiah is more than a human being; He is God (Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 5:2). Peter thus acknowledged Jesus' deity as the Son of the living God. The disciples had come to this conclusion as they observed the Lord Jesus over a period of time, witnessed His miracles, and heard His words.¹

¹ Louis A. Barbieri and Jr., "Matthew", *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), Mt 16:13-16.