

## EXCERPT FROM TEXT

*<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-11, NIV).*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Most people acknowledge that Jesus was a real man who had a profound impact on the world. However, not everyone believes in the meaning of Easter—that Jesus rose from the dead. What do the people you know who doubt this fact believe instead? Have you ever spoken with them about it?
- When it comes to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, what possibilities are there that it's not true? What changes if it is true?

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4.

- Why would Paul need to remind the Corinthians of the gospel? What is the purpose of remembering the most basic of all Christian beliefs?
- When Paul remembered the gospel in verses 3-4, what elements did He believe were essential to remember? What, in Paul's mind, were the facts of the gospel?
- Why did it matter that the gospel was "in accordance with the Scriptures," which Paul stated twice in as many verses?
- What makes the Scriptures a reliable record and testimony of the empty tomb? How have they verified this claim to you?

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-8.

- After rooting the gospel in the empty tomb and the Scriptures, what did Paul appeal to next? Why should this next piece of evidence be compelling for us, even today?
- Why do you think Paul recorded all of these witnesses to the resurrection? What was he trying to show in doing so?
- We've been studying the letter of James to the church in Jerusalem. What was James's background? What was Paul's? What does it prove that these men eventually claimed Jesus as their resurrected Lord?
- Are you more likely to trust something that you only heard about or something that you saw with your own eyes? Explain.

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-11.

- Look at John 20:19-23. Where did all of Jesus' disciples go after He was buried? In seeing and spending time with the resurrected Jesus, how were their lives changed?

- A witness is defined as “a person who sees an event.” How are we witnesses to Christ’s resurrection even though we are not eye witnesses?
- Read Colossians 2:14. What exchange was made at the cross and through the resurrection? What gives the resurrection the ability to change lives?
- What about you? How has Jesus changed your life? Why is this in and of itself evidence for the resurrection?
- Three universal issues we all face are death, sin, and problems of this life. How does the cross make sense of all these issues and speak powerfully to them?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- What will you do this week to remind yourself of the gospel through which you were saved and upon which you stand?
- The gospel transforms communities as well as individuals. What difference has it made in the way you relate to other people both inside and outside the church?
- Easter gets people thinking about Jesus in a way they may not at other times of the year. Is there anyone you know who is still questioning the resurrection? Would they have a conversation with you about how it has changed your life? How might you set that up?

### **WORK OUT (THIS WEEK’S ASSIGNMENTS)**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **MY NEXT STEPS**

1. This week, I will let someone know that I am ready to begin a relationship with Jesus.
2. This week, I will take the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus and His resurrection with someone in my life.
3. This week, I will turn to Jesus first to find the strength needed to manage the problems that arise in my life.
4. Yes, I will come back to FFC next week to deepen my relationship with Jesus by hearing what James, Jesus’ half-brother, has to say about the conflict and arguments I have with other people (James 4:1-12).