

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 15:1–11 “Foundational Facts of Faith” For the Sermon Preached on Feb 26 and For Use in Life Groups through Mar 5

Icebreaker Questions

Has someone ever told you something that you refused to believe but that turned out to be true? Why didn't you believe them? What did it take to convince you?

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 15:1–11

Pastor Richard's Sermon Outline

- I. The Gospel is Trustworthy (15:1-8)
 - a. The Reality of the Resurrection (vv. 1-3a)
 - b. The Essentials of the Gospel (vv. 3b-4)
- II. The Gospel is Life-Changing (vv. 9-11)
 - a. The gospel leads to the recognition of sin (v. 9)
 - b. The gospel results in a transformation of character (v. 10a)
 - c. The gospel redirects one's passions in life (vv. 10b-11)

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. How does Paul describe his relationship with the Corinthians in vs. 1-2?

2. According to Paul in vs. 3-8, what are the key elements of the gospel?

3. To whom did Jesus appear after his resurrection according to vs. 5-8?

4. How does Paul describe himself in v. 8?

5. How does Paul describe his apostleship in v. 9?

6. According to v. 10, what is it that has made Paul what he is?

7. Why does Paul say that the grace of God toward him was not in vain?

8. How does Paul characterize his successes in vs. 10-11?

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Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. In vs. 1-2 Paul describes how the gospel creates the church as a community of believers. What elements are present in this process? What do each of those elements mean to us?

2. Explain each element of the gospel in vs. 3-11.

3. In vs. 12-58, Paul is going to explain why the resurrection is so crucial to the gospel story. Based on what you know about Paul and 1 Corinthians, however, how would you explain the importance of the resurrection to both the gospel and your faith?

4. Why is it important for Paul to name all the individuals and groups who saw Jesus after he rose from the dead? How is this helpful information for us?

5. How can Paul call himself an apostle at every turn and then say, “I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle” in 1 Corinthians 15:9? How is this incredibly good news for us?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 15:3-5: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. If someone who didn’t know anything about Christianity asked you how it can be “good news” that God came to earth and people killed him, what would you say?

4. If someone who was not a Christian asked you, “Why do you believe that the resurrection really happened?” what would you say? What role would 1 Corinthians 15 play in your answer?

5. If someone asked you about God’s power to change people, especially their desires, what would you say? What role would 1 Corinthians 15 play in your answer?