

The Bible

Week 1: The Resurrection Makes the Story

Group Time

Ice Breaker

Prayer

Worship

Introduction

The Bible is the most important book of all, often referred to as “the word of God.” It is the story of how God interacts with humans, and most importantly, it is the story of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Historians believe Jesus to have lived and walked on the earth. Ancient historian Josephus¹ wrote about Jesus and more recently, Edwin Yamauchi, a leading expert in ancient history wrote: “There is overwhelming evidence that Jesus did exist . . .”²

However, some people dispute his resurrection. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-14. In verse 14, Paul wrote, “and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.” Why did he say this?

2. As Pastor Dan discussed this week, the letters that were carefully written and that we call the New Testament today were written from or based on eyewitness accounts of what happened when Jesus walked on the earth and as the church grew. In fact, those who wrote the New Testament did so in the face of great persecution. People don’t take such a stand if they don’t truly believe in the message and these men were there to see for themselves. They knew the truth. It turns out, these men didn’t always believe. Read Mark 14:50 and John 20:19. **a.** What were the disciples doing according to these passages and why? **b.** Do you think they believed Jesus to be dead?

3. Let’s check out Peter by reading Luke 22:61 and Acts 2:14. Now read about Thomas in John 20:25-28. Finally, let’s look at Jesus’ brother James in John 7:5, 1 Corinthians 15:7 and James 1:1 (describing himself). **a.** How did their behavior change? **b.** Why do you think these men changed? **c.** Why are the words written in the Bible important to you? Share.

Prayer/Ministry

¹ “Josephus’ Account of Jesus: The Testimonium Flavianum.”

² Strobel, *The Case for Christ*. page 81.

Taking It Home

Going Deeper

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Memory Verse

Romans 15:4: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”