

# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 – April 16, 2017

### The Resurrection

#### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

#### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

#### Word (45 Minutes)

Paul explains that if there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ did not resurrect from the dead and if Christ did not resurrect from the dead then the entire Christian message unravels. Paul works through in the negative form saying that if the resurrection didn't happen then preaching the gospel is in vain, faith is in vain, they've lied about God, we are still in our sins, there is no life after death, and Christians are to be pitied. But Paul ends in verse 20 by once again reminding them of the truth. Christ has been raised from the dead, which transforms and reverses the previous verses.

For this weeks study on the Resurrection please check out the following pages...

## Walk Prayer & Missions

South Sudan & NOLA Baptist— For further information visit [norriferrychurch.org](http://norriferrychurch.org) or contact Jared Clary ([clary@norriferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norriferrychurch.org))

Please see the list of local ministries under the "Walk" section below.

## Calendar

April 23rd— Baptism Class  
April 30th— Church Picnic/ Youth Fundraiser  
May 7th— Member's Meeting  
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)  
July 11th-16th— Fort Worth Mission Trip

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Resurrecting](#)":

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now  
The Savior knelt to wash our feet  
Now at his feet we bow

The one who wore our sin and shame  
Now robed in majesty  
The radiance of perfect love  
Now shines for all to see

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king  
[x2]

The fear that held us now gives way  
To him who is our peace  
His final breath upon the cross  
Is now alive in me

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king  
[x2]

By Your spirit I will rise  
From the ashes of defeat  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In Your name I come alive  
To declare your victory  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
[x3]

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain  
Was borrowed for three days  
His body there would not remain  
Our God has robbed the grave  
Our God has robbed the grave

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king  
[x2]

By Your spirit I will rise  
From the ashes of defeat  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In your name I come alive  
To declare Your victory  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me

**Commentary: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-20**

When talking about 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 John Piper states, **“The greatest news in all the world is that God and his Son are most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in them.”** To make this true God raised his Son Jesus from the dead. In this passage we find what God has done for us by raising his Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Paul addresses a final problem in 1 Corinthians, as some in Corinth accept Jesus’ resurrection from the dead but deny that Christians will share in resurrection life with Jesus (vs. 12, 16). Paul’s response emphasizes important gospel truths. He explains that if there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ did not resurrect from the dead and if Christ did not resurrect from the dead then the entire Christian message unravels. **Paul works through in the negative form saying that if the resurrection didn’t happen then preaching the gospel is in vain, faith is in vain, they’ve lied about God, we are still in our sins, there is no life after death, and Christians are to be pitied (vs. 12-19).** But Paul ends in verse 20 by once again reminding them of the truth. Christ has been raised from the dead, which transforms and reverses the previous verses.

The truth of Christ’s resurrection (vs. 20) transforms verses 12-19 into beautiful gospel truths speaking directly to believers. **God has given us forgiveness and glorified Jesus as the all-sufficient forgiver; God gave us Jesus to count on and glorified him as completely reliable; God gave us guidance and unchanging truth and glorified Jesus as the foundation for absolute truth and righteousness; God gave us a life that is enviable, a ministry that is fruitful, and glorified Jesus as the source and goal of all life and ministry; and God gave us an everlasting joy that will not end in death, and glorified Jesus as the creator of life, the conqueror of death, and the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep.**

These gospel truths lead to two major applications seen in the rest of chapter 15. First, rather than defining ourselves by the emptiness of “this life” and its pleasures (vs. 19, 32), we must cherish the promise that we will share in Christ’s glory. Second, we must embrace this resurrection hope as a source of power by which we may endure hardship (vs. 30–32) and struggle against sin (vs. 33–34). Gratitude for the victory that God has given us through Christ must lead us to be “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (vs. 57–58). **The gospel therefore combats hopelessness and gives purpose to our daily endeavors: “in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (vs. 58).**

## Discussion and Application

1. According to verses 1-11, what are the core elements of the gospel as Paul taught it?
2. According to 15:12-20, why is the resurrection so essential to the Christian faith? What arguments does Paul provide for the validity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
3. Looking at the positive of verses 12-15 (also see third paragraph in the commentary), what gospel truth stands out to you the most? Why?
4. How does the promise of a physical resurrection give hope to a person who is currently suffering or sick?
5. How might the resurrection encourage us in our daily battle of faithfulness (vs. 58)?
6. How might your knowledge of God's eventual climax of human history change your present priorities in this life?
7. What were some takeaways from the sermon? Did the Holy Spirit convict you? Did the Lord reveal something new about his character?

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased  
Young life  
Heart of hope  
First priority  
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center  
Community renewal  
Grief counseling  
Celebrate recovery  
Samaritan counseling  
Last call ministries  
Golden age ministries  
Rescue mission  
Luke's lighthouse  
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!