

Transformed: Transformed by the Resurrection

Session Aim

The purpose of this session is to consider the impact of the resurrection story in our own lives. The session is designed to help us appreciate how our initial obedience to Christ was a picture of his death, burial, and resurrection, and how our continuing Christian lives are also encapsulated in the concept of resurrection, climaxing in our ultimate resurrection to eternal, celestial life.

Preparation

Reread the death, burial and resurrection story in one or more of the gospels (Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 13-21)

Bible Text

Romans 6:1-23

Introduction

While much of the Christian world focuses on the Easter resurrection story of Jesus at this time of year, the reality is that the resurrection is central to daily Christianity. Of the seven sacraments identified by the Catholic church, the Christian church has retained only two—baptism, and communion or the Lord's Supper. Both of these receive their identity and meaning from the resurrection events—those events from Jesus' life that encompass his death, burial, and resurrection.

Welcome/Icebreakers

Resurrection means "to come to life again". Describe a time when you or someone you knew experienced something that felt like new life or beginning again.

When have you have the opportunity to "begin again"?

What does resurrection mean to you? What are some synonyms? What are some antonyms?

Worship

If the group desires to spend a time in shared worship, songs that would be especially appropriate would be those that tell the life of Jesus or resurrection story, or those that speak of change and newness. Use a concordance to identify Scripture readings that relate to newness in the life of a Christian.

Bible Study

Someone has observed that death is mentioned 15 times in this section. What is the connection between baptism and death?

According to this text, what connects Jesus' death and resurrection with our death and resurrection?

Why does baptism represent a clean break with sin?

After baptism, Christians don't want to sin

After baptism, sin becomes repulsive to Christians

After baptism, sin can no longer be forgiven by grace

What are appropriate actions after baptism? (check out verses 11-13)

What is our motivation? (verse 14)

When in your Christian life did you realize that you don't have to be a slave to your old desires?

What areas of life feel like they are trapping or enslaving you right now? (share as you are willing with the group in preparation for prayer time)

Application

Mediate on the power of resurrection in your life in the next week (or until your small group meets again) by noting those activities where you made a different choice than you would have before you became a Christian. (If you have been a Christian a long time, you may want to think about choices that you make that are different than those of a non-Christian.)

Note how resurrection has changed your life—words, actions, choices, priorities, etc.

Come to the next small group session prepared to share some of your observations. (Group members are never asked to share beyond their comfort level.)

Conclusion

Our next study will focus on integrity. Before the next meeting, think about how the resurrection of Jesus from the dead enables us to live a life of integrity—integrating the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual components of our life so that we are healthy Christians.