

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer

2. Welcome any newcomers

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, 16, 17 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, 16, 17

April 20, 2014

Title: Seven Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection

Read to the group: Faith should be reasonable. We've talked about this before. If you started your car to come here tonight, you had reason to believe you'd be here. That's reasonable faith, even though we all know something could change that. But what about God, and something as seemingly unreasonable as the resurrection of Jesus Christ? As a kid I believed in the resurrection without reason—because my parents believed it, my church taught it, and every Easter Sunday we'd climb a hill in the town park and watch the sunrise before church. When I grew older, I had questions. Even though I experienced the miracle of salvation, I knew that experience was based on the factual event of Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:17 tells me my faith is futile if Christ is not raised from the dead. Therefore I sought a reason to believe what I was taught to believe. In our Easter Sunday sermon, Peppy takes us down the road I traveled as a young adult looking for a reason to believe what I'd been taught. Learn these facts to add reason to your faith experience, and share them with others to give reason for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

Question: Why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ so difficult for people to believe? Was it ever difficult for you to believe it? Is it now?

Question: In the seven reasons to believe in the resurrection, Peppy cites historical reality: biblical manuscripts, extra-biblical sources, archeological confirmation. But some would say Jesus' miracles and especially the resurrection are not scientifically possible. What is wrong with applying scientific arguments to historical events? **Facilitator:** To prove something scientifically, it must be repeated again and again with the same result. An historical event depends on evidence for proof much like evidence is presented in a court of law. It cannot be repeated.

Question: It's common to hear people say Jesus was a great philosopher or teacher, but he wasn't God. Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of God, equal with God the Father, and not just a great human teacher?

Question: Complete the following: Jesus Christ, who is God, died for my sins on the cross, was buried and was raised on the third day, therefore I _____. **Facilitator:** Encourage your people to tell what they should do or what they did about the Holy Spirit's call to faith in Jesus Christ. This would be a good time for some of your group to tell how they met Christ.