

HIS STORY

The Good News of the Resurrection

By this time in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul had addressed several ongoing sins and struggles in the church. Therefore, he ended by reminding them of the great antidote for all of their troubles—the gospel. Paul was writing to a group of believers who had already received the gospel, yet they needed a reminder that the gospel is central for all of life. The gospel is not just what begins new life and a relationship with Christ, it also shapes daily life in Christ. The church in Corinth was clearly not living out the gospel—they were experiencing divisions in the church, sexual immorality, bragging of all kinds (especially about spiritual gifts, knowledge, eloquent speech, and status), greed, and idolatry. In other words, they were building their lives, hope, and status on things other than the gospel of Jesus Christ.

► **What are some things you're sometimes tempted to build your life around, other than Jesus?**

The Resurrection is Both Historic and Physical

Remember, the entirety of the Christian message hinges on the truth that Jesus resurrected from the dead. If Jesus did not rise, we are still left in our sin. If Jesus did not rise, death has the last word. In this sense, our lives don't validate the gospel, but the gospel validates and transforms our lives. All of the aspects of the gospel, such as Jesus' sinless life and sacrificial death, are vital. But this part—the resurrection—is what gives us our greatest confidence and hope in the entirety of the gospel. Paul focused on the resurrection in this passage, because the resurrection is the means of a transformed life.

Jesus' Resurrection Points to Our Own

The framework of creation, fall, redemption, and renewal is central to the gospel story that runs throughout the pages of Scripture. From cover to cover, this framework plays a significant role in how we understand God's active work in all of creation. This part of the framework—renewal—is what Paul focused on next.

Renewal is Jesus' future act when He will restore all things to God's intended design. Renewal speaks of completion and restoration—completion of the gospel story and restoration when everything God created as good in Genesis 1–2 will once again measure up to that standard. All of God's work is moving toward this end.

Essential Doctrines

Resurrection: *The Old and New Testaments both teach that believers will one day experience a resurrection of the body from the dead (Isa. 26:19; Ezek. 37:12-14; John 11). The promise of the resurrection is found in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and it will take place at the future return of Christ. Because Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection, Christians can be assured that their resurrection will be similar in nature, meaning it will be both bodily and glorious (Rom. 8:22-23; Phil. 3:20-21). The hope of the future resurrection gives Christians confidence that death has been defeated in the death and resurrection of Christ.*

Leader Note: Because some content from the Personal Study Guide will not be available on the One Sheet, make sure to adapt the session based on how you use the material with your group.

