

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

1 Corinthians 15

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite Easter memory?

BACKGROUND: The Truth is timeless and true: He is still risen/alive!

THE BIG PICTURE: The most important fact in all of human history is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER:

INTRODUCTION 1 Corinthians 15:1

- What is the gospel? Why is it important to be reminded of the facts of the gospel? When have you taken a stand for your faith? Why do we need to take a stand for Jesus?
- What statement of fact did Paul make? What would be the implications of our faith if the resurrection was a hoax? Why is our faith useless if Christ hadn't been raised? (See 1 Corinthians 15:14-20)

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- What is the most important thing in all of the world — all of your life — that you could know?

1. He Was Crucified

- Skeptics deny that Jesus died. How can we be certain He died? What proof do we have that He was dead? Why is it essential to our faith that Jesus died?
- For what reason did Jesus die?
- There is a historical controversy: Who killed Jesus? Jews? Romans? (See John 10:18)
- Easter is about the empty tomb. Why are we talking about the cross? *Can't have a resurrection unless we have the cross
- How did God show His heart on the cross? (See 2 Corinthians 5:21)

2. He Was Resurrected from Death

- Why is it significant that the words "just as Scripture said" was mentioned twice?
- How can you prove that Jesus' resurrection wasn't a hoax? Where did the disciples go after they discovered He was alive? What is the evidence of His resurrection?
- Have you ever had a conversation about His resurrection with someone who was not a believer? How did it go?

3. He Was Seen by Eyewitnesses

- Why did Paul stress the many appearances of Jesus after His resurrection? What could you say to skeptics who say somebody stole the body?
- Who were some of the people who saw Jesus?
- How were the following people transformed after seeing our risen Savior: Peter the Failure, Mary Magdalene the Prostitute, Thomas the Doubter, James the Younger Brother, Saul/Paul the enemy?
- Every conceivable method was used to stop the apostles from sharing their faith, yet most all of them died for their faith. Why is this significant? *die for truth, not lies

CONCLUSION:

- How do you respond to this message?
- How does Jesus' resurrection provide hope in your life?
- How does this message make a difference in your life? How does it challenge you?