

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Discussion Questions **LEADER GUIDE**

Week of 3/31/24

This is the final week of the series. The sermons this week—both on Good Friday and Easter Sunday—may vary from campus to campus, so be sure to revise what's offered below if it doesn't fit well with what you heard.

Text: John 11:24-27 (The sermon on your campus may have included other passages too.)

Icebreaker: How did you celebrate Easter this past weekend?

1. Read John 11:24-27. What was significant to you from these verses or from the sermon you heard this week? Why?

2. This week's question is "Do you believe this?" from verse 26. What is Jesus promising for those who believe what he's saying in verses 25-26?

Jesus is claiming to be the resurrection and the life, which he unpacks as meaning that those who believe in him have victory over death. Will we die someday if Jesus hasn't returned yet? Yes! But physical death is not our end because Jesus has given eternal life that includes a resurrected body.

Application: What difference does the belief that Jesus is the resurrection and the life make in our lives according to these verses?

This is an invitation to think about how our faith in Jesus relates to the hope we have as Christians. Jesus has power over death and so our greatest fear—the thing that many would consider the worst thing that could happen—is nothing to fear. We can live with confidence and hope in all that we have in Jesus.

3. Take a couple minutes to read 1 Corinthians 15:1-20. What does Paul say would be the outcome for Christians if the resurrection had not happened? Why?

Verses 12-19 are especially helpful.

Application: Have you ever thought about how your life would be different if the resurrection didn't happen? What difference would it make?

4. Consider Paul's claim in verse 6: "he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive." How could this increase our confidence in the resurrection as a historical event?

Paul is essentially saying, "If you don't believe me, go ask them since many are still alive." Most scholars believe 1 Corinthians was written around 20 years after Jesus's death and resurrection, so many who were eyewitnesses would have still been alive. For those who have suggested that these "more than 500" merely hallucinated about seeing Jesus alive, psychologists have pointed out how incredibly improbable it is that hundreds of people would have the same hallucination...and especially at the same time.

What else do you find in these verses—or the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15—that gives you hope?

You can either stick with these first 20 verses of the chapter or look further into the chapter. Verses 35-58 could be really helpful for this question.

5. As we wrap up this series, what are one or two things that you've found most impactful or helpful about it?