

Week 30 LEADER Discussion Questions

AS THIS ICEBREAKER STATES, THIS IS OUR NEXT-TO-LAST ROUND OF DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SERIES AND BEFORE WE BREAK OVER THE SUMMER. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP WHAT YOUR PLANS WILL BE OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS (MAYish-AUGish). WE DO RECOMMEND A BREAK FROM YOUR REGULAR SCHEDULE BUT NOT FROM CONTINUING TO CARE FOR EACH OTHER! GET IN TOUCH WITH US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT TO DO THIS SUMMER.

Text: 1 Cor 15:50-58

Icebreaker: Next week is the final week of this series! What has been your highlight from 1 Corinthians?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. In verses 50-55, Paul notes that our current "perishable" bodies are not fit for the kingdom of God and that they will one day "put on the imperishable."

What attitudes do you see in our culture regarding our present physical bodies?

We might observe people putting huge amounts of time, energy, and money into doing whatever possible to stay young. Meanwhile, others may neglect their bodies ("Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die").

Practically speaking, what does it look like for you to care for your physical body today but also embrace the reality that it will one day perish?

This is a tad abstract but maybe you could help lead the conversation by going first. E.g., "I try to exercise regularly but also am learning to accept that I'm no longer able to do what I used to be able to do."

3. With verses 54-57 in mind, we live in a day where death appears to have the upper hand and the sting of it is unavoidable. What have you found helpful for reminding yourself of the kind of victory Paul gives thanks for?

4. This chapter ends with a crescendo: Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Why should the resurrection of our Lord lead to this kind of response?

You might want to go back through the chapter to remind yourself of the full train of thought Paul has been unfolding. For example, if there is no resurrection then even Jesus hasn't been raised and our faith is futile. But since it is true, Christ is the firstfruits of those who believe! Our lives can take on an ultimate purpose because we know that the end of our time in this age is not truly the end. The decline of our current bodies is only part of a process that will result in a transformed imperishable body. We can live with courage and confidence and boldness as we know that eternity is in front of us.

Have you considered before how the resurrection has this kind of relevance to your everyday life? Explain.