

Core Study #7

Christ our Hope

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-26

Themes: Seeing Christ and his resurrection as central to our faith and why we live as we do.

Summary:

In this passage Paul is addressing the fact that the Corinthian believers are questioning the reality of the resurrection. Paul challenges this track of thinking by pointing out the natural conclusions, which develops because of it such as the uselessness of their faith if the resurrection did not happen. Overall, Paul is reminding us that we have faith and work towards spiritual maturity because our hope is found in Christ. Christ and his resurrection is the powerful motivation to live out the Christian life.

Leaders Preparation:

Read through 1 Corinthians 15 a few times in different translations – especially from the Message translation. Pray and ask God to reveal His Truth to you, taking note of repeated phrases and major themes. Write down any questions you may have about the passage, any words or sentences that you don't understand. You may want to look at a good study Bible or Bible commentary such as Gordon Fee's "The First Epistle to the Corinthians" to find the answers to your questions.

Since this is the last study and falls on the last Core of the semester, plan for more of a devotional rather than a full-fledged Bible study. Find encouragement in this passage about why we are Christians and take time to pray together. Plan to have an end of semester celebration – have a potluck, Secret Santa gift giveaway, make Christmas cookies together, etc... Do something that celebrates your time together as well as celebrates the members in your group that Christ brought together.

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Devotional Questions (selection to choose from):

First read 1 Corinthians 15: 12-26

1. If there were no resurrection, what are the consequences for Christ, for Paul and for us?
2. Why does Paul say believers should be pitied if there were only earthly value to Christianity? (vs. 19)
3. If we try to live out the Christian life without Jesus in the picture, what would our lives look like?
4. What would your faith look like without the truth of the resurrection of Christ guiding you?

Response:

5. What part of 1 Corinthians has challenged and transformed you this year?

Pray 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 over each other, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." Pray that each member would continue to grow in the area they have been challenged or transformed in.

Pray for each other as you grow in maturity in your faith. Take time to pray for each member of the group as you all go home for Christmas break.