

# Focus Bible Study



“As one scholar memorably puts it: There is a resurrection-shaped dent in the historical record. And it’s quite a puzzle working out how it got there.”

John Dickson.

## **Did Jesus really rise from the dead ?**

### **Discuss.**

How is the Christian idea of resurrection different from other religious ideas about life after death?

For example,

1. reincarnation (Hinduism, Buddhism)
2. existence in heaven as a spirit (Plato)
3. living in paradise (Islam)

How do we determine if something that has happened in history (like the resurrection) is true ? What evidences do we look for?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-7.**

What does the passage say about the resurrection of Jesus?

How important is it to the message of the Gospel? V3.

How does it fulfil scripture?v4

Who saw Jesus ?v5-8. List them out.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

Why is the resurrection so important to Christian faith?

Why does the resurrection have to be a historical event? What are the implications if it was not.

## **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

What are the implications of the resurrection for the whole world?

Believers :

Non Believers:

### **Reflect and discuss.**

What are the concrete evidences for the resurrection of Jesus ?

What would you look for?

In the words of a Historian, “what kind of evidences will an event like the resurrection leave behind in history?” Are the following reasons below convincing arguments for the resurrection of Jesus?

- a. The empty tomb.
- b. Independent Eye witness accounts of seeing the risen Jesus.
- c. The change in the disciples from being a frightened group of followers to a group of brave followers shows that a significant event happened to change to change them.

*“All these scholars agree that there is an irreducible historical core to the resurrection story that cannot be explained as pious legend or wholesale deceit. ...* J. Dickson

Are these evidences enough to convince people that Jesus rose from the dead?

## **Concluding the series on Tough Questions.**

It is great to be able to ask our questions about God and the Bible. Being able to answer these questions may help us decide whether the Bible is true or not. Take note also that the Bible asks crucial questions about us. These questions challenge our assumptions and our understanding of the world and asks about our relationship with God.

### **Question 1.**

John 3:35-36.

What is your response to Jesus ? Do you believe Jesus or reject Him?

### **Question 2.**

1 John 1:8-10

Are we sinful and deserving of God's judgment? What will happen to you when Jesus returns to judge?

How certain will you be that you will be with God when Jesus comes to judge?

### **Question 3.**

Ephesians 2:1-7

In your relationship with God are you dead or alive? Where do you stand with God now? Where do you want to be?