

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

### Discussion Guide

#### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

#### Read Scripture

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 together.

#### Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together using the HEAR inductive Bible study method.

#### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

#### Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (ESV)

*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.*

*<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*

**Open:** When you were a child did you believe in Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny? When and how did that belief change (spoiler alert – they're not real)?

**Review of 1 Corinthians:** Paul has written this letter to help bring some necessary course correction to the church in Corinth who were experiencing division within the church over a variety of different issues. Paul wrote on the resurrection of Jesus, in chapter 15, to help clarify any confusion about this essential aspect of the gospel. This chapter reminds us that the truth of the bodily resurrection of believers in Christ is an essential doctrine for the reality of Christian faith and mission.

**Study:**

- 1) Paul reminds the Corinthians that they have received and believed the gospel he preached (15:1, 11). What does that say about their initial response to the teaching of Jesus' resurrection? What does it say about the relationship between initial belief and ongoing faith?
- 2) What is the matter of first importance that Paul is writing about? Take time to share about each aspect.
- 3) Why is the resurrection and important aspect of the entire gospel of Jesus Christ? What are some of the implications of the bodily resurrection of Christ for the Christian?
- 4) Paul cites several sources of authority for the truth of Jesus' bodily resurrection (15:1-8). What are those sources? If Paul taught the Corinthians about Jesus' death and resurrection "in accordance with the Scripture," then he is talking about the Old Testament. What are some Old Testament texts that reflect or teach the truth of Christ's resurrection, or resurrection in general?
- 5) How does Paul's personal story of conversion legitimize the reality of the resurrection? What does his contrast of "in vain/not in vain" 15:2, 10) contribute to his story?

**Apply:**

- 6) When you rehearse the Gospel, do you include the resurrection of Christ? Why or why not?
- 7) How should the resurrection of Christ help you experience freedom from guilt and condemnation? How about freedom from enslaving sin? How about freedom from the fear of death?
- 8) How can you help care for others who may have doubts about the resurrection of Christ?

**PRAY:**

- Take time to thank God that Jesus died and was raised to bring us new life.
- Ask God for the Spirit's help to remember Christ risen and what that means for you today.
- Ask God for opportunities to share with others the grace and mercy of the gospel.

NOTE: Mostly taken from *ESV 12-Week Study Guide, 1 Corinthians*.