

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 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 15:1-28 together, paying close attention to 15:12-28.

### 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 15:12-28 (ESV)

*<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

*<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all."*

**Open:** What are cultural common beliefs that you see in movies or tv shows about an existence after death? Where do you think these beliefs come from?

**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:**

The Corinthians may have rejected the notion of their own resurrection due to the pressure of Greco-Roman culture, which viewed the post-death experience as ranging from nonexistence to a shadowy and immaterial existence in an underworld. In particular, to an educated person, the idea of a physical and conscious afterlife was thought to be somewhat childish.

- 1) How many if/then statements does Paul use in this section (15:12-18)? Why does Paul repeat them so often for the church in Corinth?
- 2) What is the logic that Paul is impressing upon the Corinthians in 15:12-19? List all of the implications for us, if Christ did not raise from the dead?
- 3) If you were first hearing this read in Corinth, what thoughts or ideas would have been going through your mind (especially considering 15:12-19)?
- 4) How is Paul connecting Christ's resurrection to the assurance of resurrection for his disciples?
- 5) What does Paul mean by saying that Christ is the "firstfruits" of those who have fallen asleep (15:20, 23)? Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Jesus. How are those two foundational biblical characters alike and how are they different according to our passage?
- 6) What "end" is referred to in verse 24? What is the sequence Paul is specifying in verses 25-27? When is the resurrection of the dead supposed to take place?
- 7) If God the Father and God the Son are equal, how can Paul say that Jesus will be in subjection under the Father after the final resurrection (15:28)? What does this teach us about the relationship between the Father and the Son?
- 8) 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 that we see from this passage?

**Apply:**

- 9) What are some examples of someone who is taking the resurrection of Jesus for granted? How about you? Are there steps you can actively take to appreciate the resurrection of Jesus more?
- 10) What impact does the resurrection of Christ have on how you face daily life? Does it give you hope? Why or why not?
- 11) How would you explain to an Unbeliever the importance of the resurrection?

**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*.