



Why the Resurrection Matters

WHAT INVENTION OR INNOVATION HAS BEEN A GAME CHANGER FOR YOU?



The POINT >

The resurrection of Christ changes everything.

> 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28, 54-58

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

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⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ 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.





THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

The can-opener was invented 48 years after the can.¹ How did they even get them open?



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

The Bible is the story of God's work to redeem fallen creation through the saving work of Jesus, who will one day make all things new.

Today, there are all kinds of inventions that have dramatically changed the way we live and work. The battery, introduced in 1800, gave us a way to store energy. Edison's electric light bulb was invented in 1879 and illuminated what we do night and day.

Inventions like these have truly transformed the way we live and work. But because they've been around so long and are so commonplace today, we rarely give them much thought. Think about how difficult it would be to live in 2020 without lights or batteries.

However, there are certain life-changing events that, even though they may have happened a long time ago, we simply shouldn't overlook. Consider the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ's resurrection has been a central truth of Christianity for 2000 years. Sadly, many Christians can repeat the facts of the resurrection while never really considering the implications of that truth for their daily lives. Jesus' defeat of the power of sin and death is truly a game changer for our lives—now and forever.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22

1 How does the resurrection influence your understanding of life after death?

2 How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:23-28

3 When is it challenging for you to submit to Christ?

4 What characterizes a life that is submitted to Jesus as Lord over all?

5 How does Christ's reign over all creation give you hope in your day-to-day life?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-58

6 What things draw you away from Jesus?

7 What specific actions can believers take to ensure that we stand firm?

8 How has Christ's resurrection changed your life?



Jesus' resurrection is a sign that all things are subject to Him, including the authorities—spiritual and physical—of the world.
#BSFLResurrection





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

The Bible is the story of God's work to redeem fallen creation through the saving work of Jesus, who will one day make all things new.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus made new life available to all who trust in Him. One day, Jesus will restore all that sin has broken, and for those who have trusted in Him, we will live with God in the new heaven and earth for eternity. The Bible records the story of God's work beginning with creation and culminating with the new creation, and it all centers around the death and resurrection of Jesus.

> CHRIST

The resurrection of Jesus is a foundational truth that dramatically affects the lives of Christians.

9 How are you living in light of the resurrection every day? How will you live it out this week?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

10 Is there any sin in your life that keeps you from living in a way that reflects the power of Jesus? Confess it to God and make the necessary changes.

> COMMUNITY

Jesus came to earth not to be the Messiah the Jews expected—a political leader and military conqueror. Instead, Jesus came as a suffering servant to save the world, and His death and resurrection were His greatest acts of service. We may not feel like we have much to offer, but when we serve in the name of Jesus, our work is always valuable.

11 This week, how can you reflect the nature of Jesus through serving others in your church family?



> CULTURE

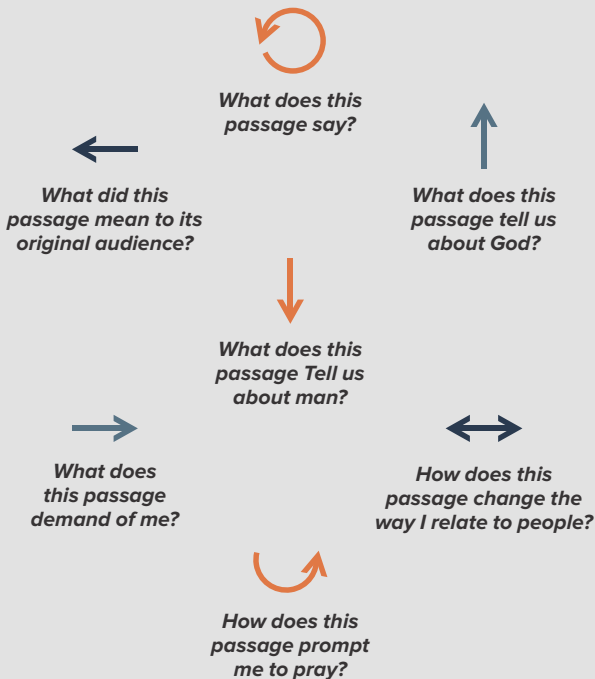
Without understanding the resurrection, your lost friends will never be raised with Christ and forgiven of their sins.

12 This week, share with a friend about how the resurrection of Jesus has made a difference in your life. Help him or her understand what it means to trust in Jesus.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **LEVITICUS 23:4-8**

God's people had suffered for generations in Egypt. However, God saw their sufferings and, because He loved them, miraculously rescued them from slavery. To help them remember the things He had done for them, God called His people to celebrate His working among them with a series of festivals. God prescribed specific dates these festivals were to take place and specific activities in which the people were to take part. The Passover represented God's passing over the houses with the lambs' blood on them, and specifically, His deliverance from Egypt. The Feast of Unleavened Bread caused God's people to remember how they had to hurry and leave Egypt with no time for their bread to rise. The Feast of Firstfruits represented their being grateful for all that God provides, specifically the promised land of blessing where He would lead them.

- **What helps you to remember the good things God has done for you?**
- **How can you connect these feasts with your own life?**

Day Two

LEVITICUS 23:9-11



God had promised to give His people a land of their own. And the place He would give them was absolutely incredible with fertile lands. When they farmed the land, their crops would be abundant as a reflection of God's blessings on them. In response, they were to give to God the first bundle of grain they harvested as an expression of their gratitude. Further, this offering was a way of their acknowledging that all they had came from God. Finally, devoting this one bundle of grain to God represented their commitment to use the rest of what God had supplied for His purposes.

- **What has God called you to give back to Him in a “firstfruits” manner?**

- **How does what you give to God represent your gratitude, your trust in His provision, and that you use all you have to honor Him?**

Day Three

LEVITICUS 23:12

Scripture teaches that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22). This principle was clear from the time sin entered the world. God sacrificed animals to cover the shame of Adam and Eve, Abel offered the firstborn of his flock, and God later called His people to offer sacrifices in obedience to the law. Only days before, Jews would have offered a lamb at the Passover, but here again at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, they were to sacrifice another lamb to God. Because the firstfruits were a recognizing of God's providing all we have, this lamb specifically pointed to the fact that God would provide the lamb for the forgiveness of sin. Many people have tried to work for their salvation. However, this is impossible, and the truth is that the only answer for our sin is provided by God Himself.

- **How do you know that all you have is provided by God?**

- **Why is it so important that we understand only God can provide the answer for sin?**

Day Four

LEVITICUS 23:13

Aside from the sheaf of barley, the Israelites were to offer a lamb, as well as grain and drink offerings. The grain offering was a loaf of bread made from barley, and the drink offering was wine. These were both offered upon the altar, and as they were burned, their aroma ascended as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. When Jesus' body was broken and His blood poured out on the cross, it was a sacrifice which was most pleasing to God. And today, we're called not only to partake of the body and blood of Christ through the Lord's Supper, but at all times in remembrance of what the Lord has done for us. The bread and wine were, for the Jew, a reminder of God's provision and a foretelling of what Jesus would accomplish on the cross. Today, they help us to remember all the ways God has, through Jesus, provided for our needs.

- **What do the bread and wine symbolize?**

- **How do you live every day in remembrance of what Jesus has done for you?**

Day Five

LEVITICUS 23:14



These firstfruits offered to God were only a small portion of the abundance of grain the Israelites would harvest in the coming months. And this celebration was something they were called to practice for generations—forever, in fact. When Jesus died and was raised from the dead, Paul said that He was “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20). Just like the first bundle of grain was representative of many more to follow, Jesus' resurrection guarantees that God will bless His people with many resurrections to follow. So whenever we give thanks to God for the abundance of blessings He provides, we need to remember that one day He will bless us by raising us from this life and into heaven where we will live with Him, blessed forever.

- **Why does God call us to give our first and best to Him?**

- **How is Jesus' resurrection a guarantee of more to come?**