

"THE RONA & THE RESURRECTION"

The Gospel of John, Chapters 1 and 19-20

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● PANIC AND PARADISE (John 1:1-5)

● PAIN AND POLITICS (John 1:6-36)

● PASSION AND PASSING (John 19:1-30)

● PEACE AND POWER (John 19:31-20:31)

He is risen
He is risen

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

ICEBREAKER: Among your non-Christian friends, what is the most commonly held belief about the after-life? What would they say about the doctrine of resurrection that awaits us?

1. **Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of the historical Jesus of Nazareth.** Biblically speaking, the doctrine of resurrection is the idea that there will be a reunion of the bodies and souls of humans that have been separated by death. This doctrine is considered a nonnegotiable tenet of Christianity. The Bible teaches it and the early church affirmed it in the creeds. When was the first time you learned about the resurrection? What were you taught? How has the hope of the resurrection impacted your life in a practical way?

2. Read together 1 Corinthians 15:1-58 and pay attention to what the text says about the doctrine of resurrection in general and in particular what it says about Christ's resurrection. After reading, discuss.

3. How can a Christian avoid believing the gospel in vain (1 Cor.15:1-2)? How did Christ's life fulfill the Scriptures (v.3)?

4. What are the key points of the gospel (1 Cor.15:3-8)? Why did Paul emphasize these facts? How do these facts grab you?

5. Why did Paul feel unworthy to be called an Apostle and yet still felt comfortable calling himself one (1 Cor.15:8-10)? Do you feel unworthy to be called a Christian or child of God and yet still affirm you are one?

6. What were some of the things the Corinthians were thinking that troubled Paul (1 Cor 15:12)? Why might they be wrestling with this issue? Have you ever doubted any truths of the Bible? If so, what?

7. How did Paul explain the bodily resurrection (1 Cor.15:39-55)? How has God given Christians victory over death (vv.56-57)?

8. Some people claim that Easter is a pagan holiday (even some well-meaning Christians have accepted this claim) and they cite references to pagan fertility cults as the origin of the Easter bunny. Nonbelievers say Christians co-opted the pagan day, what do you say? The aforementioned well-meaning believers agree and say we should reject cultural things like eating chocolate bunnies or hunting for colored eggs? If indeed these modern cultural things are pagan, are they inherently sinful or can these cultural things be redeemed for godly purposes? Where do we draw the line?

9. Many of the Greek philosophers, such as Plato, believed an immortal soul inhabited a body but that at death the soul left the body forever and went up to heaven. While the Scriptures affirm a separation of body and soul at death (e.g. 2 Cor 5:8), our ultimate hope is in the resurrection because this separation is temporary and the resurrection is permanent. Do you tend to think more of being in heaven as a soul when you die or of the future resurrection when God raises the dead and brings His kingdom to earth (Rev 20:4-6)? Why? Discuss.10. Did you invite anyone to church for Easter? If so, share and pray for them.