

## Foundations Part 1: Risen Indeed!

**Objective:** To help us embrace the truth and power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

**Read together:**

***“[Jesus] was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 ...he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.***

***But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!***

**1 Corinthians 15:4-8, 12-20**

- Today, most followers of Jesus don't give much thought to the resurrection. But when you stop to think about it, it really is an amazing claim: *a man died and on the third day, rose from the dead*. What do you *really* believe about the resurrection? Why do you believe what you believe?
- The pastor said that the cornerstone of our faith is not a creed, a belief system or even the Bible. Rather, it is the historical event of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Does that understanding of the resurrection change the way you approach your faith and how you share it with others? Why or why not?
- When you look at the evidence for the resurrection, does it strengthen your belief in it's reality? If not, why not?
- The resurrection gives us the power to live for Jesus and a hope to face life daily. Which do you need more at this time in your life, power or hope (or both)? Why?
- How does believing in the reality of the resurrection change the way you live your life on a daily basis?

**Final Thought:** The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith and the source of power for a transformed life. It is also the living hope we embrace that there is more to this life than just this life. How will you apply that understanding to your life this week? Who will you begin to share this truth with?

