

Have you ever thought, “*What is the big deal about Easter?*” I mean, we all love the fun parts of Easter—you know, the Easter bunny and the colored eggs and jelly beans and especially those big chocolate Cadberry eggs with the white goop inside.

Christians all over the world celebrate this day—but what is the big deal? Did it really make a difference? We’re going to explore an alternate history where Easter never happened, and see the Aftermath if Jesus didn’t really rise from the dead.



BIG IDEA: Life without Easter is a life without hope.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group a pivotal event that happened (positive or negative) that changed the course and direction of your life.
2. What was the aftermath of that single event? How did it change your direction?
3. *Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34.* How do you think your life would change if Christ had not been risen from the dead? Why?
4. Have you ever felt that your faith was futile and without hope? What circumstances were happening in your life at the time? How did this affect your attitude and actions? How useful is your faith now?
5. What would your life be like, according to Paul, if there were no resurrection? What proofs does Paul offer that this is not the case?
6. What imagery and analogy does Paul use to describe Jesus’ resurrection? (20-23)
7. What are the implications for the Christian that Jesus did rise from the dead? (21-28) What happens when the end finally comes?
8. What are three present activities that are absurd if there is no future resurrection? (29-34)
9. What does Paul mean in verse 31? How is this an argument for the resurrection?
10. When did you come to the point in your own spiritual life that you connected the resurrection of Jesus with your own victory over death? Who told you? How did you feel?
11. Has the reality of Jesus’ resurrection changed your story?

THINK ABOUT IT

If you look at any gravestone, you will see a birth date – and a death date. We realize that our whole life is represented by that little “-”. If you could write your own epitaph or inscription on your tombstone, what would it say?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. 1 Corinthians 15:17, 20

