Of First Importance

Part II: Raised on the Third Day

Mark 16:6

First Among Equals

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

• The defining moment that <u>puts everything else</u> into perspective

The Historical Event

(Mat 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-16; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)

An incredible miracle with <u>astonishing implications</u>

Celebrating the Resurrection

- It affirms <u>His Identity</u> (Rom 1:4)
- It validates <u>His atoning work</u> (1 Cor 15:22; Rom 4:25)
- It means we <u>serve a living Savior</u> (Mark 14:62; Heb 7:25)
- It guarantees <u>our future resurrection</u> (1Cor 15:20-23)

For Life Group Discussion

Mark 16:6

- 1. If Jesus were to ask, "Who do you say that I am?" how would you answer? Has your answer changed over time? In what way?
- 2. When growing up did you observe any family traditions surrounding Resurrection Day? How did those help reinforce the truth of the holiday, or how did they distract from it? What traditions do you incorporate now?
- 3. Read 1 Cor 15:3-4. Paul lists three elements of the Gospel as being "of first importance." Should we always include them when sharing the gospel with others? How?
- 4. Read Mark 14:66-72. 16:6-7, 1 Cor 15:5, and John 21:15-19. What do we learn about God's grace and forgiveness? Do you think this principle tempered Paul's comments on church discipline in 2 Corr 2:5-8? How should it inform our own response to failure?
- 5. Most are familiar with the affirmation of identity (Rom 1:4) and validation of saving work (Rom 4:25) accomplished in the resurrection. But less familiar is Jesus' ongoing work of intercession (Heb 4:25; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Jn 2:1). How do you understand it, and how can it inform your everyday life as a believer?
- 6. Read 1 Cor 15:20-23, 40-49. What do you think it will be like to have a resurrected body? What do you look forward to most? How can this truth sustain us in the present?