



If Jesus Raised From The Dead, Why Isn't There More Proof? — September 6, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1–20, Matthew 28:1–10, Romans 1:1–4

Paul calls Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection a matter of first importance. Christianity isn't ultimately built on a philosophy or set of moral teachings. It's built on the claim that Jesus Christ died and then physically rose from the grave.

Understand the Moment

Paul doesn't avoid the question of whether the resurrection really happened. He points to eyewitnesses—including Peter, the apostles, hundreds of others, James, and himself.

The Gospel accounts also preserve unexpected and even embarrassing details rather than polishing the disciples into heroes. Then those same frightened followers became courageous witnesses willing to suffer for their proclamation that Jesus was alive.

Paul's conclusion is direct: if Jesus wasn't raised, our faith is futile. **But if He was raised, everything changes.**

Process Together or Alone

- Why does Paul consider the resurrection a matter of “first importance”?
- Which evidence discussed in the message stands out most to you?
- Why are the disciples' doubts, failures, and fears important details in the Gospel accounts?
- What would Christianity become if Jesus had never risen?
- What difference does the resurrection make in the way you view your own future?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What does the resurrection reveal to you about who Jesus really is?
- Where is the risen Jesus inviting you to replace fear with hope?

Obey

- What would you do differently this week if you lived fully convinced that Jesus is alive?
- What fear, sin, or failure do you need to stop treating as more powerful than Jesus?

Share

- Who could you invite to honestly investigate the resurrection with you?
- How would you explain why Jesus' resurrection matters personally to you?

Care

- Who is grieving or afraid and needs the hope of resurrection?
- How can you practically demonstrate Christ's presence to them this week?



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Live It Out

Take a piece of paper and write:

IF JESUS WASN'T RAISED...

Using 1 Corinthians 15:14–19, list the consequences Paul gives. Then turn the page and write:

BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED.

Now rewrite each consequence in light of the resurrection. Your faith isn't useless, your sins don't define your future, death isn't the end, and your hope isn't limited to this life!

Keep that page somewhere you'll see it this week.

Remember: **The resurrection isn't simply something Christians celebrate. *It's the reality that changes how Christians live!***

Pray

- Thank Jesus for enduring the cross and defeating death through His resurrection.
- Ask God to strengthen your faith when doubts and questions arise.
- Pray for someone who needs the hope that death does not have the final word.
- Ask God to help you live with the courage and confidence of someone who believes Jesus is alive.
- Pray for opportunities to share the reason for your resurrection hope with someone else.

Thank You for the cross, the empty tomb, and the hope we have because Jesus is alive. When doubts come, give me courage to seek truth rather than run from difficult questions. Help me live as though the resurrection is really true—because it is. Replace my fear with hope, remind me that sin and death do not have the final word, and give me courage to point others toward the risen Jesus. Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

If someone asked you, “Why do you believe Jesus actually rose from the dead?” what would you say?

Closing Reflection:

If you became more conscious of the resurrection every morning, what is one thing about the way you live that you think would change?