# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## BUILT DIFFERENT :

## *“A Disciple Lives Because Resurrection Is Real”*

**SCRIPTURE |** 1 Corinthians 15:12–34

## MEMORY VERSE

“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

## MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT

Built different: disciples know Jesus’s resurrection is the basis of their hope.

## DISCIPLESHIP RHYTHM

Discipleship Distinctive: Resurrection of Christ

## **OBSERVATION:** WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Gather in groups of three to five people to discuss the Observation and Interpretation questions.

### OBSERVATION EXERCISE 1: CONSEQUENCES IF DEATH IS FINAL

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–19. Paul gave a list of consequences if death is final and there is no resurrection. What are the consequences? Make a list.

*Suggested Response: Paul said if there is no resurrection from the dead, then Christ has not been raised because He was really dead. Preaching and faith are useless, the apostles were false witnesses, believers are still in their sins, those who have died in Christ are lost, and Christians are to be pitied if their hope is only for this life.*

### OBSERVATION EXERCISE 2: CONSEQUENCES IF RESURRECTION IS REAL

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–28. Paul explained what is true since resurrection is real and Jesus was really resurrected. What did Paul say is true? Make a list including what has happened and what will happen in the future.

*Suggested Response: Paul said Christ has been raised as the firstfruits of those who have died. All those who belong to Christ will be resurrected. Jesus Christ will reign as king and subdue all his enemies and give the kingdom to God the Father.*

### OBSERVATION EXERCISE 3: PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:29–34. Paul used himself as an example. What hardships did he face? What warnings did he give the Corinthians?

*Suggested Response: Paul said he faced danger every hour and died every day. He questioned why he would suffer instead of taking every opportunity to party. He warned the Corinthians not to be misled, told them bad company corrupts good character, called them to come back to their senses, and told them to stop sinning.*

## **INTERPRETATION:** WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

### INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 1: RESURRECTION IS ESSENTIAL

In 1 Corinthians 15:12–19, why did Paul say Christian faith falls apart if resurrection is not real?

*Suggested Response: First, if resurrection is not real, then Jesus Christ was not resurrected. Second, Paul showed that the resurrection cannot be separated from the gospel. If Christ has not been raised, then the apostles preached something false, faith has no saving power, believers are still in their sins, and those who have died in Christ are gone forever. Christianity does not rest only on Jesus's teaching or example. It rests on the truth and power of God that the crucified Jesus was raised from the dead.*

### INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 2: CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS

In 1 Corinthians 15:20–28, Paul explained that Jesus Christ was resurrected as the firstfruit. Why is this important? What did Paul mean by calling Christ the "firstfruits," and what hope does that give those who belong to Him? What hope does that give you as a disciple of Jesus?

*Suggested Response: Firstfruits were the beginning of a harvest and the promise that more was coming. Paul was saying Jesus's resurrection was the beginning of the resurrection God*

*promised His people. Just as humanity shares death through Adam, those who belong to Christ will share His resurrection life. This means disciples of Jesus will also be physically resurrected from the dead. This gives me hope that the life I am now living will not be the end of my existence when I die. I will have eternal existence, including a physical resurrection of my body. Jesus Christ really accomplishes the defeat of death!*

**INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 3: RESURRECTION MEANING FOR TODAY**

In 1 Corinthians 15:29–34, Paul connected the truth of resurrection with how the Corinthians presently lived. What impact does the resurrection have on how you live today?

*Suggested Response: Paul showed that what we believe about the future shapes how we live in the present. If death is the end, then avoiding sacrifice and chasing whatever pleasure we can find starts to make sense. But if Christ has been raised and death is defeated, then suffering for Christ, resisting sin, and giving ourselves to what matters are not wasted. Resurrection hope gives disciples a reason to live differently now.*

## **APPLICATION:** HOW DO I RESPOND?

**QUESTION 1: Paul explained that resurrection is real and impacts present day living. What are some ways the truth of the resurrection impacts your faith this week?**

*Suggested Response: The resurrection reminds me that my faith rests on something God has actually done. It is certain, and it is completed. Jesus is alive, so my hope is not based on wishful thinking or how strong I feel. When I feel discouraged, uncertain, or afraid, I can come back to the reality that Christ has been raised and the hardships I face are temporary.*

*As your group responds, use follow-up questions to guide below surface-level responses. Encourage transparent responses.*

**QUESTION 2: Paul taught that all believers will share in Jesus's resurrection. How does that change the way you think about death?**

*Suggested Response: Death is still painful, and Christians still grieve the breaking of relationships it brings. But death is not the end for those who belong to Christ. Because Jesus has been raised, I can face death with real hope. I do not have to pretend death is harmless, but I also do not have to believe it gets the final word.*

**QUESTION 3: Paul said Christ will reign and defeat all enemies, even death. Where do you need that bigger picture of God's victory right now?**

*Suggested Response: I may need that hope in a place life feels broken, unfair, painful, or out of control. Some examples are broken relationships or maybe conflict in marriage that is tearing the relationship apart. Maybe I am facing a terminal medical diagnosis. Maybe I am facing the loss of a loved one. Maybe I am a parent with a prodigal child. Maybe I have bills I cannot pay and the weight is heavy.*

*Paul reminds me that what I experience right now is not the end of the story. Christ is reigning, and God is moving history toward the day when every enemy, including death, is defeated. Hardships now are temporary. God's promise is true and eternity will be different.*

**QUESTION 4: Paul explained that he suffered and endured hardships because of the hope brought by the reality of the resurrection. What is something costly about following Jesus that resurrection hope helps you keep doing?**

*Suggested Response: It may be forgiving someone, serving when I am tired, giving generously, obeying when it costs me, standing for truth, or staying faithful through suffering. Resurrection hope reminds me that faithfulness is never wasted. What I do for Christ now matters beyond this life.*

**QUESTION 5: Paul quoted, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Where are you tempted to live as though this life is all there is?**

*Suggested Response: I may be tempted to chase comfort, money, success, experiences, approval, or whatever feels good right now. Those things can become too important when I forget that my future is with Christ. Resurrection hope frees me to enjoy God's gifts without expecting temporary things to give my life ultimate meaning.*

**QUESTION 6: Paul warned that "bad company corrupts good character." What voices or influences are shaping the way you think about life?**

*Suggested Response: The people I spend time with, the media I consume (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, podcasts, etc.), and the voices I listen to can shape what I value. Some influences can slowly disciple me to live for comfort, success, pleasure, or fear instead of Christ. I need to pay attention to what is shaping my view of life and keep returning to the truth of the gospel.*

**QUESTION 7: How can our group help one another live with resurrection hope?**

*Suggested Response: We can remind one another that Jesus is alive, pray with one another when life is hard, encourage one another to remain faithful, and speak hope when someone is grieving or discouraged. We can help one another remember that death is not the end and that a life given to Jesus is never wasted. Disciples are built different because disciples know Jesus's resurrection is the basis of their hope.*