



### A Matter of Life and Death - Easter 2023 Spiritual Formation Guide

Because of the Easter holiday, this week's guide is simplified. We'll launch a new teaching series next Sunday, April 16, 2023!

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take the next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

#### Scripture:

But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. <sup>15</sup> And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. <sup>16</sup> And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. <sup>18</sup> In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! <sup>19</sup> And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

1 Corinthians 15:13-20

#### Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:13-20 – or if you can, read the entire chapter. What stands out about Paul's understanding of the significance of Jesus' resurrection?
- Eddie shared several questions in his message:
  - Why were so many people in the first century convinced Jesus rose from the dead?
  - How does the resurrection matter to me?

- What part of you will Jesus bring back to life first?

Take a moment to write down your quick responses to those questions. Then, share as you're willing.

- Do you want to spend more time with one of those questions this week? If so, which one?
- Is there a way that you can keep celebrating the good news of the resurrection this week? Easter is not a one-day celebration – it is ongoing!
- Take time to close your time with prayer.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually? Visit [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources) to see some of the tools that our team is recommending.

#### Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **What happens to us when we die?**
- **“He is risen, indeed!”**
- 1 Corinthians 15:12 - “Why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?”
- 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 - “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:19 - “If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are to be pitied more than anyone in the world.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:20 - “BUT IN FACT, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.”
- **Why were so many people in the first century convinced Jesus rose from the dead?**
- Matthew 28:5-6 - “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”
- Luke 24:11 - “They did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.”
- John 20:19-20 - “Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.”
- John 20:29 - “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”
- **How does the resurrection matter to me?**
- **The most important thing we do in this life is to prepare for the next.**
- 1 Corinthians 15:36 - “When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first.”
- Colossians 2:12 - “For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were RAISED TO NEW LIFE because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”
- **What part of you will Jesus bring back to life first?**