

REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



ACT 7 BIBLE STUDY

OPENING QUESTIONS

- 1) What feelings arise when you ponder death and dying? Peace? Fear? Other feelings?
- 2) Has there been a time in your life when you were face to face with death and struggled to make sense of it? What did you learn from that experience?
- 3) What purpose do you find in life knowing you will die? When a loved one you knew died did you consider it the end of that person's life or that there was a future following their death?
- 4) Do you think there is more emphasis on death and dying or on the resurrection of the dead? Does this have an impact on how we view Christ's death versus His resurrection?

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- 1) When reading these verses, is there one particular verse that stands out to you? Why?
- 2) What conclusion can be drawn from Paul's ten "if" verses?
- 3) Why does Paul say we should be pitied? Why do you think Paul is arguing about the resurrection? Is this something that should still be argued today?
- 4) What do you think it means that Christ is the first fruits of those who have fallen **asleep**?
- 5) What are the three time patterns outlined by Paul? When does Paul say the will the end come? And what will happen when it comes?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1) What impact does Christ's resurrection have on your daily life?
- 2) Does the truth of Christ's resurrection affect how you view His death? And your death? Why or Why not?
- 3) How does knowing that death will be destroyed help you in this present life?
- 4) How important do you think the resurrection is to your own story?
- 5) What truths can you take away from these verses to share with others?

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

The resurrection of Jesus is central to our Christian faith. The resurrection is evidence that Jesus is truly who He said He was. Paul was passionately refuting the Greek philosophers who did not believe that people would be resurrected from the dead. How can you use Paul's example to refute philosophies at UVM that deny the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Take some time this week to reflect and meditate on the power of the resurrection and how that resurrection power is revealed in your own life. Draw a timeline of the 7 Acts of God's Story considering how each act impacts your life here on this earth as well as after your bodily death and after the resurrection of the dead.