

## Discussion Guide | Easter Weekend: Skeptics Welcome | April 16-17, 2022

**INTRO VIDEO** Start off your group time by clicking the link below to watch session 11 of the series *The Book of 1 Corinthians* with Jennie Allen...

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/257958?session=328009>

**OVERVIEW** The book of Ephesians was written by a man named Paul. Before he met Jesus, Paul was one of the Church's greatest skeptics. He desperately wanted this movement associated with Jesus to go away & did everything he could to make that happen... including having Christians arrested & sanctioning their deaths. But everything changed for Paul on the day he met the resurrected Jesus. And the resurrection of Jesus is still changing hearts & minds today. The resurrection reminds us that the early writers of Scripture weren't telling what they believed, but instead were telling us what they saw! They speak as eyewitnesses & keen observers, not out of wishful thinking. They use the language of a courtroom, not a fairytale. The resurrection also reminds us that Christianity was founded on a historical event, not a creed or a belief system.

**KEY VERSES** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20 (NIV84)

**REMEMBER** This weekend's message included several illustrations (Examples: Charles Steinmetz's \$10,000 bill OR the rogue Jungle Cruise employee at Disney) to help us understand 1 Corinthians 15. Which of these resonated with you, and why? Share.

**REFLECT** Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. The Apostle Paul uses the phrase "according to the Scriptures" twice in these two verses. Why do you think he does this? What makes this observation so crucial to what Paul is talking about? Explain.

**RESPOND** Pastor Brad shared about a conversation he had years ago while riding in the car with his dad. His dad said that Christians are weak & stupid people who need a crutch, warning Brad that he'd be wasting his whole life following Jesus. Brad responded by asking his dad to provide evidence for his position & to study the book of John with him. His dad refused, but their conversation about faith continued for the next several decades. Have you ever had someone in your life who was skeptical about faith that questioned your relationship with Jesus or his resurrection? How have those conversations gone, and what have you said in response? Share.

**REAL LIFE** In today's clip, Jennie Allen identified the resurrection as the linchpin to our faith. Without it, there's no hope for the future or victory over death—we'd be stuck in our sins with no purpose in life. But because Jesus is alive, we're alive as well. Since Jesus was raised from the dead, we'll be resurrected too. How does this reminder change how you view your everyday life? How can you go out & live differently in light of this powerful truth this week? Explain.

**PRAYER TIME** As you reflect on the resurrection, take a few minutes to thank God for his written word & the ability to read about his resurrection & victory over death. Thank him for the promise of eternity. Then go out this week & continue to make decisions that reflect your faith in his promises.