



Foundations Leaders' Guide

Lesson 7 – Resurrection of the Dead

Objectives

- Continue to get to know group members
- Understand the Biblical importance of the resurrection of the dead and its relevance in the life of every person

Preparation

- Establish a meeting place and time
- Pray for the members of your group, that throughout the semester they would “be filled with a knowledge of God’s will so they may live a life worthy of the Lord” (*Colossians 1.9-12*)
- Print a notes sheet for each student
- If you are co-leading, determine who will lead which parts of the meeting

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome Jesus

Matthew 18.20: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by welcoming Jesus as Lord, and asking Him to teach and transform each member of the group **as He desires**.

2. Welcome Each Other

- ✓ Lead the group in a personal discussion about how each member is doing, how God is working in the group and life of each member, or any other topics. It can also be helpful for the group to share a funny story or personal story relevant to the day’s lesson.

3. Receive From the Lord

3.1 Review

Spend time reviewing the content from lesson 1, including Standing in the Gap’s mission, the four chairs of discipleship, and the content from any previous lessons.

Teacher’s Note: *Group members should already be familiar with this content. To help them remember and memorize it, ask questions. For example, rather than stating “The purpose of Standing in the Gap is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ,” ask “What is the purpose of Standing in the Gap?”*

3.2 Resurrection of the Dead

The first four Foundational topics we have studied are focused on our present life here on earth. Our next topic, the **resurrection of the dead**, extends outside the scope of time and life on earth and instead turns the focus to **eternity**. The Bible teaches much about life on earth, but Jesus’ promise of resurrection from the dead and eternal life is the reason Christians can have hope in eternal life.

📖 *1 Corinthians 15.19*

📖 *Optional reading: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18*

? Why do you think Paul says what he does in *1 Corinthians 15.19*?

When God created Adam and Eve, the first humans, he never intended for them to die. It was **through sin** that they were separated from God, and human death originally entered the world:

📖 *Genesis 2.4-17*

📖 *Romans 5.12*

We understand through the language of the Bible that the **body** is the **material** part of a person – including the skin, brain, blood, and bones. Upon death, it seems there is some kind of separation of a person’s spirit from his or her body. However, we see through both the Old and New Testament that people’s immaterial selves persist even after death and separation from the body, meaning that the personalities and other characteristics of these individuals also persist:

📖 *Luke 16.19-31*

📖 *Optional reading: 1 Samuel 28.3-20*

Jesus was the first to be resurrected from the dead, to fulfill God’s foretold promise of resurrection:

📖 Acts 2.22-33

After the resurrection, the whole person of Jesus was alive and present in his physical body. He was not just a ghost or a spirit. In his resurrected body, Jesus was recognizable and able to physically interact with the world, just as before his death. However, **his body had been transformed** by God's glory, and the gospel writers record many events around Jesus' resurrection that would be normally impossible:

📖 Luke 24.1-8

📖 Luke 24.36-43

📖 John 20.19-31

📖 *Optional reading: Matthew 28.8-10*

📖 *Optional reading: Luke 24.13-35*

📖 *Optional reading: John 20.11-18*

? What stands out to you about Jesus' appearances to his followers after the resurrection?

Just as the first man, Adam, set the **pattern of sin** and **death** for all people, Jesus set the **pattern of resurrection** and **life** for all who believe. Therefore, our hope for resurrection comes through Jesus' own resurrection, because we will be resurrected just as he was:

📖 *1 Corinthians 15.20-22, 35-49*

? What do you think Paul means when he calls Jesus the "firstfruits" of those who have fallen asleep?

In this passage, Paul compares our resurrection to the **germination of a seed**. A seed is planted in the hope that it will germinate and become a new plant, much greater than the original seed that was planted. Though the plant is still biologically the same seed, it has grown and been transformed.

The final resurrection will take place **when Jesus returns to earth**. Jesus teaches that he will return **at an unknown time** in the future to reclaim his people and fully establish his kingdom. At that time, anyone who has died will come out of his or her grave:

? *1 Thessalonians 4.13-5.11*

? *John 5.24-29*

? *Optional passage: Matthew 24.30-31, 36-51*

? What do you think it looks to be ready for Jesus' return?

Ultimately, everyone – not just Christian believers – will be resurrected. Each person will be sent either to **eternal life** in heaven or **perish**.

📖 *John 3.16*

📖 *Optional reading: Revelation 20.11-15*

To conclude, God offers us incredible hope in the resurrection of the dead. Jesus died for each of our sins, but He also rose from the dead, so that through him we could also have eternal life. At the resurrection, each person will be raised in their physical body, just as Jesus was. However, only those who have believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior will receive eternal life.

? How do you think your life should be influenced by hope in God's promise of future resurrection?

- ? Are you prepared for Jesus' return? Why or why not?
- ? Are others around you prepared for Jesus' return? If not, what can you do to help them prepare themselves?

4. Offer Response to the Lord

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by thanking the Lord for his presence, and asking him to continue to teach and transform the group through the power of the Holy Spirit.

FAQs

What about those who have been cremated? How can they still be resurrected in their earthly bodies?

God created every intricate detail of our physical bodies. In light of our knowledge of God's creative and restorative power, it's very reasonable to conclude that God has the power to perfectly reconstruct the bodies of those who have been cremated or otherwise destroyed. However, many Christians choose to be buried, rather than cremated, as a symbol of their hope in the future resurrection of their bodies.