



## Small Group Questions: The Reality of the Resurrection

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### Read

John 20:24-29 and 21:15-17; and Matthew 16:18

### Reflect

Have you ever received news that seemed too good to be true? Oftentimes, it is. But the Good News of Christ's resurrection is true. After Jesus's death, the disciples desperately needed encouragement, knowing none of them had stood up for Christ during His time of trial and suffering. How did they move from a place of fear and despair to become the founding carriers of the Christian movement?

Pastor Josh Surratt highlights three of the many ways the resurrection helps us overcome our weaknesses and become fully devoted followers of Christ:

1. For those of us with doubts, the truth of the resurrection strengthens our resolve.
  - a. Where do you struggle with doubt?
  - b. Jesus doesn't reject Thomas, although Thomas required proof of the resurrection. It's easy for us to condemn Thomas, but if we were actually there, what doubts might we have had? What proof might we have asked for?
  - c. Jesus took on all the sins of the world and God raised Him from the dead. Yet, are there struggles in your life that you still don't trust God to handle?
2. For those of us with conflict, the resurrection reconciles our relationships.
  - a. Peter denied Jesus three times and the others just ran away. Yet after the resurrection, Jesus makes sure to restore His relationship with them. He pointedly asks Peter three times to feed His sheep. What is the significance of this?
  - b. How can you apply Peter's example to your own life? In what ways are you believing the enemy's lies of unforgiveness about yourself and others?
  - c. Are there relationships that need reconciled in your life? Using Jesus's example, how might you go about restoring them?
3. For those of us who lack direction, the resurrection reminds us of our purpose.
  - a. Have you ever felt that God has forgotten you, or doubted that He has a plan for your life? Explain.
  - b. Have you ever allowed yourself to be distracted by how God is working in someone else's life? What was the result? What did you learn from it?
  - c. In what ways has God then reminded you that He DOES care about you and has a plan for your life? Did He accomplish this in a way far different than you expected?
  - d. If you are experiencing a time of waiting or discouragement—like the disciples on the Friday and Saturday before the resurrection—how does the knowledge of the resurrection restore your resolve in seeking His purpose for your life?

### Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?