

RESURRECTION HOPE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: : MARK 16; I CORINTHIANS 15

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: I CORINTHIANS 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

Key Verse: *But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”*

Mark 16:6

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45 (NRSV)

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,

2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,

4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

12-14

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;

14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

20-23

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;

22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

42-45

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is

raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

45 Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

VOCABULARY

- **Resurrection** – Raised from the dead.
- **Subjection** – The act of controlling someone or something.
- **Perishable** – Something that is likely to decay.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had a pet that died? What about a family member or a friend? When Jenn was 9 years old, her family took a trip to the mountains for a long weekend of camping and fun. Jenn was so excited because for the first time, her parents allowed her to take the family dog, Gruff. It was a great weekend. After an afternoon of fishing and canoeing, Jenn’s dad showed her how to make s’mores over a campfire. “It was the best trip ever,” she wrote in her journal. The mountains were beautiful and the s’mores around the campfire tasted especially good on this trip.

On their way home, Jenn’s family sang along with the radio as they listened to nineties music. Michael Jackson was her

favorite artist, so Jenn was able to sing all his songs when they played. Several hours into their drive home, the family was involved in a terrible car accident. In an instant, Jenn's life changed forever.

Five years later, Jenn was talking to a dear friend who had just lost one of her cousins. As they talked, Jenn remembered the day her parents and Gruff died. Even though she was extremely sad, Jenn was able to encourage her friend. Jenn's faith in God gave her strength to overcome her grief and to walk with her friend as she grieved.

Activity #1: How Do You Feel? Discuss a time when you dealt with loss. What do you think about life after death? What do you believe about resurrection?

THE BIBLE STORY

Paul reminds us (the church) that the good news of the resurrection is the foundation of our faith. Yes, Jesus died, was buried, and raised from the grave to give us a second chance (vs. 3-4). Mark's account of the Lord's Supper details the final moments Jesus spent with his disciples in fellowship. It's at this final meal that Jesus initiated the shift in covenants by revealing the upcoming events of his betrayal and crucifixion. Jesus exposed a traitor among them, and instituted the Sacrament of Communion which symbolizes the final atonement for sin, all before ending their time in song and prayer (Mark 14:22-24).

Activity #2: Grateful! As you listen to the music, write a letter

to Jesus expressing thanks for Jesus' death and resurrection. Detail ways you show your commitment to the new covenant that Jesus made possible for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE0W-kQyz6A> "Grateful"
by Hezekiah Walker

LIFE APPLICATION

After Jesus and the disciples had their last supper, everything for Jesus' last hours on earth was set into motion. The timeframe for this is just a few days. Within that time, the old covenant will be fulfilled, and the new covenant will begin. Everything that Jesus taught, preached, modeled, rebuked, and healed will soon be part of the instruction manual for life. Whenever we need to know how Jesus responded to a particular situation, all we have to do is read, pray, and let the Holy Spirit guide us. This wonderful news is only available through the new covenant. The old covenant would require much more. We give thanks for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that makes life easier than it would have been if we were still under the old law.

This new covenant is superior to the covenant God made through Moses at Sinai. The old covenant, which informed God's people of the moral law, convicted them of sin, and established the pattern of sacrifice, priesthood, and promise of salvation, could not bring people to perfection. However, through Jesus Christ, we receive everlasting life if we choose to follow him. Jesus' justifying (just-as-if we didn't do it) grace gives us life

and grants us freedom from sin. We should be grateful that we have grace and mercy that forgives and reconciles. We should praise God aloud because of what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do for us and in our lives, all because of Jesus and his new covenant!

Activity #3: What's Better, the Old or the New? What is from the old covenant, and what is from the new? Put the letter 'A' in the blank if it is Old Testament Law or 'B' if it is New Testament Law.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Came by Moses: ____ | 10. Covers sin: ____ |
| 2. Gives life: ____ | 11. Makes us live by work: ____ |
| 3. Ended by Jesus: ____ | 12. For the Israelites: ____ |
| 4. Made us slaves: ____ | 13. Makes us live by faith: ____ |
| 5. Still in force: ____ | 14. Was fulfilled: ____ |
| 6. Established by Jesus: ____ | 15. Demands work: ____ |
| 7. Leaves us imperfect: ____ | 16. Demands obedience: ____ |
| 8. Exposes sin: ____ | 17. Is for everyone: ____ |
| 9. Gives life: ____ | 18. Needs an offering for sin: ____ |

SUMMARY

Starting over is both challenging and refreshing. Just as we have the opportunity to start anew in Christ, it can be scary and exciting rolled together. Jesus' atoning sacrifice

allows us to lean into our faith with confidence that we will be reconciled to God by our confession of faith, and the repentance of our sins. It's not like looking for forgiveness from a friend or family member, where their human condition can dictate when or if forgiveness will be granted. It's a guarantee that no matter what we have done, said, or thought, all will be forgiven by God. Now, when we participate in communion, this new-found grace reinforces the gravity of the sacrament. It's personal and communal, a reflection on what Jesus was trying to get across to his disciples at Jesus' last supper.

Our new lives should take on Christ-like characteristics. When we study the life of Christ we have the opportunity to reflect that life onto others. It doesn't always mean that we have to coerce our friends and loved ones to do what God wants *us* to do, we model it. Our lives become a living testimony of God's grace and mercy towards us. Does that mean that we will never turn from this new path? Absolutely not! Our new way of living will have its challenges, and we will be tempted, but all we have to do is hang on in there.

Activity #4: It Isn't Easy! Make a list of things that might cause you to fall short, miss the mark, or outright sin. Listen to this song and realize you are not alone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IZAVUin01U> "Hang On" by Kierra Sheard

CLOSING DEVOTION

Read this poem in unison:

Heavenly Father, I am your humble servant,
I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I felt helpless,
There are times when I feel weak.
I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future.
I need hope for a better life.
I need hope for love and kindness.
Some say that the sky is at [its]
darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark.
I need your light, Lord, in every way.
I pray to be filled with your light from
head to toe. To bask in your glory.
To know that all is right in the world,
as you have planned, and as you want
it to be.
Help me to walk in your light and live
my life in faith and glory.
In your name I pray, Amen.¹

1 <https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-hope.html>