

## Questions and Suggestions for Personal Reflection and/or Discussion

1. This week read Luke's account of the resurrection (Luke chapter 24). Think about the devastation that the early followers of Jesus would have felt when he died. Think about the elation they must have experienced when they realized he had risen from the dead.
2. It seems that some people in Corinth had trouble believing in the resurrection. The passage for this week's message shows how Paul reasoned with them about the reality and the necessity of the resurrection. What aspects of Christian faith do you think people have trouble believing today? Think about views such as, "Dead men don't rise," "Miracles don't happen," "There is no life after death," "You can't change human nature." How should Christianity respond to these assertions?
3. While it is important to know what Christianity teaches, the most important thing is your personal experience of God's saving grace. In the passage for this week's message, Paul makes it very personal when he says, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Paul wants the people in Corinth to understand that personal faith and personal forgiveness of sins are critically important. So what about you? How real is your personal faith? Have you experienced personal forgiveness for your sins through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ? If not, why not choose to experience these realities today? You can use the following prayer as a means of expressing your repentance and faith in Christ.

## An Easter Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your love for me. I need and want a new start in life. I need and want to know forgiveness for my sin and hope for the future. I don't want to stay the same. So as much as I know how, I want to open up my entire life to you. I confess and repent for my sin, and I ask for your forgiveness. I invite you to become Lord of my life and to change me by your power from the inside out. Thank you. Amen.

## Because Jesus Lives...

Pastor Alan Robinson, Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (church Bible page 815)

<sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

<sup>20</sup>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.