



Week of March 24
1 Corinthians 15:12-34¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st-century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are All for Jesus.*** Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king. Only Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, and worldly division has no place for those who follow him.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- What is your favorite Easter tradition?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

In this week's text, Paul addresses the idea spreading through Corinth that there is no bodily resurrection of the dead. No one denied Jesus' physical resurrection, but they did not believe we would bodily rise as well. Paul sees the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of believers as inexorably linked—you cannot have one without the other. He goes so far as to point out a practice the Corinthians understood, baptism for the dead. We do not know exactly what this practice entailed or Paul's opinion on the matter², but he uses it as an argument: Why would you concern yourselves with the dead if there is no resurrection to come?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

- What is resurrection? Why does Jesus' resurrection matter?
- Paul uses several arguments in this passage to emphasize the importance of the bodily resurrection of believers. Which do you find most compelling?
- How does Jesus' authority described in verses 25-28 relate to his resurrection?
- How does the truth of our future bodily resurrection give us hope?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

Reach One More Practice

- Invite your "one more" to an Easter celebration, whether that is attending church, an Easter egg hunt, or your family dinner.
- How can you share the hope of resurrection with your "one more"?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Is there anything we are holding onto that may be hindering our friends from seeing the gospel exhibited in our lives? Spend a moment in confession, asking God to help you release it.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Lord, may the security of our future resurrection give us strength and courage to live out your call upon our lives today. May we see every day as an opportunity to prepare for the eternity we will spend with you.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org.
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>
- Right Now Media Series – "Bible Backroads" – great background on Corinth, suitable for families: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/806863>
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (N. T. Wright *For Everyone* commentary series)
- Anthony Thiselton, *1 Corinthians: A Smaller Exegetical and Pastoral Commentary*

Some copies of these books may be available at the CCC resource booth to purchase on-site.

² Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. (InterVarsity Press, 2014), 493.