

Small Group Discussion Guide

Theme: Living a Consistent Christian Life through the Power of the Resurrection

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 15:20-34

Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Opening Question:** Has anyone ever held onto a secret that affected them deeply, even when they were alone? How did it feel?
 - **Context Setting:** Briefly summarize the study by psychologist Michael Slepian on the burden of secrets and the effects on mental health, noting that secrets create inner tension and a feeling of inauthenticity. Share how this connects to the Christian call to live openly and authentically in light of the resurrection.
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Scripture Reading (10 minutes)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-34 together as a group.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the Resurrection (15 minutes)

- **Q1:** In verses 20-23, Paul describes Jesus as the "firstfruits" of those who have died. What does the concept of "firstfruits" mean, and how does it relate to the resurrection?
- **Q2:** Paul calls Jesus the "second Adam" (verses 21-22). How does Christ's obedience and life contrast with Adam's disobedience and death?
- **Q3:** Reflect on the implications of Jesus being "King" who will ultimately conquer death (verses 24-28). How does this perspective change our view of life and death?

2. Living Consistently with our Beliefs (15 minutes)

- **Q4:** Paul emphasizes the need for actions to align with theology. How can believers demonstrate this consistency in their lives?
- **Q5:** When Paul says, "If there's no resurrection, why are we baptized for the dead?" (verse 29), he is stressing the importance of aligning practice with belief. How does this apply to modern life, where actions may not always match professed faith?

3. The Resurrection's Effect on our Circumstances and Company (15 minutes)

- **Q6:** How does believing in the resurrection help us interpret and endure difficult circumstances, as seen in verses 30-32? Are there hardships you've endured that this perspective could help reframe?

- **Q7:** Verse 33 says, “Bad company corrupts good character.” Why is the company we keep important, especially as we strive to live consistently with our beliefs? How do you discern which influences are helpful or harmful?
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Application (10 minutes)

- **Reflect:** Are there areas where your beliefs and actions could be more aligned?
 - **Challenge:** This week, take one step to bring your life more in line with your theology. It could be in your relationships, actions, or even in spending time with people who encourage you spiritually.
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Closing Thought

Share this quote: "The resurrection gives us hope and strength to live openly and authentically, free from guilt and shame." Pray that each person experiences the freedom and strength of living in the light of the resurrection this week.

This guide encourages meaningful conversation around the resurrection's power in believers' lives, emphasizing consistency, hope, and transformation.