

## **Small Group Discussion Guide: When Matters of Theology Matter**

**Main Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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### **Opening Question**

1. Share a time when you encountered a difficult question or situation that made you think more deeply about your faith. How did you respond?
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### **Discussion Part 1: How Theology Happens**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-13

**Discuss:**

1. What is Paul's main concern with the Corinthians' belief in this passage?
  2. The speaker said, "Theology is almost always reactive and responsive rather than proactive." Are there any issues in our society or within the church today that require a thoughtful, biblical response? How can we begin to address these together?
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### **Discussion Part 2: Why Theology Matters**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:14-19

**Discuss:**

1. Why does Paul say that the resurrection of Jesus is so important for the Christian faith?
2. The passage tells us that if Jesus is still dead, our faith is futile. How would your understanding of life, death, and hope change if the resurrection of Jesus wasn't true?
3. How does the promise of resurrection give Christians hope today?

**Application:**

- The speaker emphasized the importance of researching the resurrection. How could learning more about the resurrection strengthen your faith or help you address doubts?
  - What are some ways we can encourage each other to hold onto the hope of resurrection in our daily lives?
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## Discussion Part 3: Creeds and Confessions

### Discuss:

1. The speaker mentioned that we are in a “creedal season” rather than a “confessional season.” What do you think this means, and how does it apply to our current culture?
2. How can we work together with Christians from other backgrounds or denominations, especially when we have differences in beliefs?

### Application:

- Think of one issue where Christians need to be united in our current culture. How can our group make a positive impact in this area?
  - How can we hold onto the core truths of Christianity while still respecting differences among fellow believers?
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## Closing Reflection & Prayer

1. Reflect on the statement: **"If Jesus rose, then we will rise."** What does this mean for your life personally?
  2. How can the hope of resurrection impact your perspective on challenges, suffering, or even death?
  3. Pray together for a deeper understanding of the importance of the resurrection and for unity among believers as we face today's challenges.
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## Suggested Further Reading/Resources

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - Paul's summary of the gospel and the resurrection.
  - Philippians 2:5-11 - An early creed about Jesus' life, death, and exaltation.
  - Gary Habermas or Lee Strobel on the historical evidence for the resurrection.
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This guide is designed to help small groups explore the importance of theology, the resurrection of Jesus, and how Christians can respond to contemporary issues with unity and hope. Feel free to adapt it to your group's needs!