

Beginning Hope: The Resurrection

When Jesus came back to life, he conquered sin and death. His resurrection is relevant for our past, our present and our future.

What sins from your past weigh on you the most? What sin do you think is too big to be forgiven? Explain.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It is easy to feel alone or think that God doesn't care about you. The truth is that Jesus was tempted and experienced great suffering when he lived on the earth. Because of this, he knows our pain and trials and he can be a comfort and help for us when we call out to him. We can be confident that when we do he will hear and give us grace, mercy and help in our time of need.

Do you have fears that God won't love you if you mess up or fail? Does this make it difficult for you to believe God's promises? Explain.

Romans 8:1 ESV

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus proves that he conquered sin and death and by doing that ensures that everyone who follows him will be with him in heaven one day. Just as Jesus's death was not the end of the story, when we die, that is not the end of our story either. If we are followers of Jesus, we will be reunited with Jesus in heaven and live with him forever.

The New Testament begins with 4 books called "the Gospels." Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are eyewitness accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. These are real people in history who saw Jesus alive after his crucifixion and recounted the same events.

What questions do you have about the resurrection or heaven?

The Bible is God's Word to us and it is a historical account of real-life situations - not just stories. Do you believe these things actually happened? Explain.

Over the past few weeks you have learned many things about God, Jesus and yourself. What thoughts or questions do you have?

Prepare for next week:

- **read the gospel of Matthew (you may not finish, that's okay)**
- **watch Beginning Hope: New Life in Christ**
- **complete the questions on pages 11-12**