

Week 9:

What is the Resurrection?

In Preparation for Small Group Discussion:

1. Listen to one of the messages given at Kettlebrook on April 4, 2010 live, on the web at: <http://www.kettlebrook.org/resources/index.htm> or via podcast at iTunes.
2. Read chapter 11 (pages 76-78) in Wayne Grudem's *Christian Beliefs*.
3. Prepare your responses to the questions presented here in this study.

From Sunday:

What was the main point of the message?

How will this practically change your life?

From Your Perspective:

Have you ever heard of someone dying and coming back to life again? What was the story?

Do you tend to believe these accounts? Why or why not?

Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus is different from other accounts of people coming back from the dead?

From the Skeptic:

Why is it so hard for us to believe in someone rising from the dead?

There are many theories as to what happened to Jesus' body after he was taken down off the cross, why do you think that is?

What part of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is especially hard for you to believe and why?

From the Bible:

Read the account of the resurrection from the Gospel of Mark (Mark 16:1-8)

How do you think the women felt going to the tomb? How did they feel after the visit to the tomb?

How would you have felt if you were in their place? What emotions would you be experiencing? What thoughts or questions would be going through your head?

In John 11:25 Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." What do you think he meant by that?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Paul lists that the resurrection of Jesus was one of the things "of first importance" (v.3). Why do you think Paul makes such a big deal of the resurrection?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-20.

If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, what is our situation?

What difference does it make that Christ has been raised from the dead?

First fruits were the initial harvest of a specific crop. What do you think it means that Christ is "The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep?" (v.20)

From the Book:

According to Grudem, what was the continual message of the Apostles throughout the entire book of Acts (the book that records the beginning of the church)? Why is that important?

On page 77 Grudem lists several results of the resurrection. Which one is most significant for you? Why?

Moving Forward:

What difference does the resurrection of Jesus Christ make in your life? How does that change how you live, work, parent, date, spend your time and money?

Have you ever told God “Thank You” for what he did in raising Jesus from the dead? This week think about writing God a letter thanking him for the resurrection and what it means to you personally. Consider sharing this letter with the group next week.

Digging Deeper:

Some other passages that you may want to explore include:

- Romans 6:1-14 - Implications of the resurrection for believers.
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 - The ultimate significance of the resurrection for believers.
- Hebrews 7: 23-28 - The resurrected Jesus as a permanent priest for us.
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 - The hope offered out in the resurrection of Jesus.

Another message that you may want to listen to:

- http://sgm.edgeboss.net/download/sgm/next/2009/next09.5_ferguson.mp3

Some books that you may want to explore (and are available in the KBC office) include:

- *Raised with Christ: How the Resurrection Changes Everything* by Adrian Warnock (ISBN # 1433507161)
- *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller (Chapters 12-13) (ISBN # 052595049)
- *The Resurrection of the Son of God* by N.T. Wright (ISBN # 0800626796)
- An article by N.T. Wright on the Resurrection
<http://www.ctlibrary.com/ct/2008/april/13.36.html>
- *The New Testament Documents: Are they Reliable?* by F.F. Bruce (ISBN # 0-8308-2736-6)