

THE CASE FOR CHRIST (April 2, 2017)

Evidence for the Resurrection

Small Group Study Notes

Big idea: Jesus really did rise from the dead.

Ice breaker: Who done it? (have person initial their name)

1. Traveled to Paris _____	6. Bounced a check _____
2. Parachuted out of a plane ____	7. Served in a soup kitchen ____
3. Drove a stick shift _____	8. Built a snowman _____
4. Read through the Bible _____	9. Fell asleep in church _____
5. Got in a car wreck _____	10. Traveled by ambulance _____

- What activity was the most common?
- Was there activity no one in the group had done?
- Which of the items on the list do you hope to do?

→ The only person to initial your paper was someone who had actually been there and done it. Such were some who lived during the days of Christ, they saw Him, talked with Him, and ate with Him after the resurrection.

Review:

- What are some proofs that Jesus lived and walked on Earth?
- Do you think Jesus actually died on the cross or was simply wounded? What evidence might you offer?

Proof of the Resurrection:

1) The empty tomb

- Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body? John 19:31-34
- What typically happened to criminals on the cross after death?
- What position did Joseph hold and how might his actions (giving Jesus a decent burial) be problematic for him?
 - A) What steps were taken to make sure the tomb was secure? Mark 15:46, Matthew 27:62-65
- When Jesus' body came up missing, what steps were taken to protect the guards? Matthew 28:11-15
 - B) Who was the first to discover the tomb was empty and what problem might this present? Luke 24:1
 - C) How did the hope of the resurrection impact the early church? Acts 2:24, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2) Eyewitness of the resurrection

- A) The testimony of the Gospels (look up a couple of these and discuss)
 - Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18)
 - Cleopas and another disciple heading to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)
 - 10 apostles (Thomas is missing) (John 20:19-23)
 - Thomas and the others (John 20:26-30)
 - The disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)
- B) What is noteworthy about Paul's decision to become a Christ follower: 1 Corinthians 9:1, 1 Corinthians 15:8-9, Philippians 3:10-11

C) What interesting thing did Paul say about the 500 people who saw Christ on the Galilean hillside? 1 Corinthians 15:5-6

3) Any circumstantial evidence that would indicate Christ rose from the dead?

- What does history tell us happened to the disciple? Would you be willing to die for someone/something you didn't believe was true?
- Can you name a couple people who didn't believe Jesus was the Christ when He walked the earth and became believers after the resurrection?
- What is the message of communion and baptism?
- Why did Jewish followers of Christ change their day of worship from Saturday (Sabbath) to Sunday?

Close:

- What truth encourages you the most about the resurrection?
- What still puzzles you about Christ' resurrection?
- What are you looking forward to when your body is resurrected?

Close in prayer.