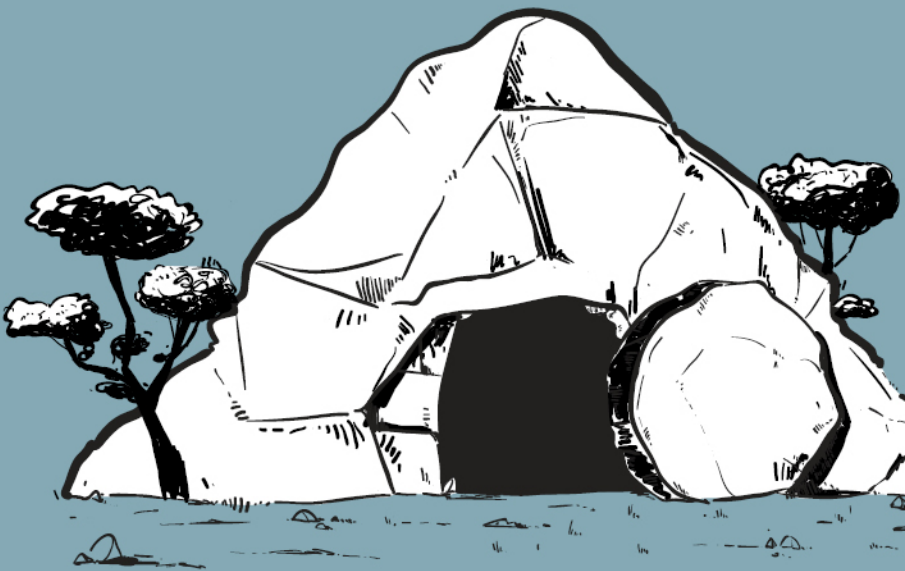


8 STUDIES  
+ LEADER NOTES

THE RESURRECTION

# Alive with Christ



PATHWAY  
BIBLE GUIDES



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THE RESURRECTION

BY MATTHEW JENSEN



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SYDNEY • YOUNGSTOWN

*Alive with Christ*

Pathway Bible Guides: The resurrection

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# Before you begin

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (1 Cor 15:17)

The resurrection of Jesus is at the very heart of the Christian faith. Without it, our faith is futile and we are still in our sins.

When asked about what they believe, most Christians would begin by explaining Jesus' death for sin and his resurrection. The apostle Paul's gospel message shows how central the resurrection is in the earliest proclamation of the gospel. His gospel message also includes a detailed list of eyewitnesses who saw Jesus after he was raised from the dead, clearly establishing the fact that Jesus was raised (1 Cor 15:5-8). For Paul, it was very important that Jesus was raised from the dead and that there were people who could testify to seeing him. In a world where there are many objections to Jesus' resurrection, we need to know this evidence and have confidence in the historical reliability of this fact.

Also, almost every speech in Acts by the apostles is about what the resurrection means and how important it is. The apostles taught that Jesus' resurrection changed the whole order of the world. The resurrection meant that God had finally acted to fulfil his promises to Israel (Acts 13:32-33).

But the resurrection of Jesus does not seem to be as earth-shattering for many people today. It can begin to seem like an ancient event with little relevance for us today. Even for Christians, the truth and importance of the resurrection can be lost.

These studies aim to bring us face-to-face with the resurrection. The

studies are split into two parts. The first part looks at the eyewitness evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. The second part explores what Jesus' resurrection means for Christian living, hopes and certainty.

Each study in the first part investigates the resurrection appearances of Jesus found in one of the four gospels, building up a table of the appearances and eyewitnesses. In the appendices at the back of this booklet you will find some extra material on the evidence for the resurrection, a timeline for the empty tomb's discovery, and some extra material on Jesus' resurrection appearances.

After looking at the evidence for the resurrection, we will then move on to consider what the resurrection means for Christians today. For example, what does the resurrection tell us about who Jesus is, and about how we should respond to him? What is the relationship between Jesus' resurrection, our resurrection and the gift of the Spirit? How does the resurrection shape our lives?

My prayer is that these studies will give you great confidence that "in fact Christ has been raised from the dead", and that "in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor 15:20, 22). May these truths shape your life in every way.

# 1. Jesus' resurrection in 1 Corinthians and Matthew

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## Getting started

Why is Jesus' resurrection so important for Christianity?

If someone asked you what evidence there is for Jesus' resurrection, what would you say?





## Light from the Word

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

1. Fill in as much as you can of the following table about the eye-witnesses of the resurrected Jesus.

Verse	To whom did Jesus appear?
5a	
5b	
6	
7a	
7b	
8	

2. Why do you think Paul says that Jesus was raised “in accordance with the Scriptures”?

3. Why it is important that most of the five hundred brothers who had seen the risen Jesus were still alive (v. 6) when Paul wrote this letter?

4. How would you summarize the evidence for the resurrection in these verses?

Read Matthew 28:1-20.

5. Fill in the following table of eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus.

Verse	To whom did Jesus appear?	When did Jesus appear?	Where did Jesus appear?
9-10			
16-17			

6. What story did the chief priests and elders invent? Why is this important?



## To finish

After looking at the evidence for Jesus' resurrection in 1 Corinthians and Matthew, how would you answer the following objections to Jesus' resurrection?

- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a hoax.
- The resurrection stories are legends.
- Jesus was not raised from the dead. The disciples just stole Jesus' body.



## Give thanks and pray

- Thank God for the many eyewitnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus.
- Ask God to give you confidence in the resurrection of Jesus, and the ability to explain the reasons for your confidence.