



WE BELIEVE

EXPLORING THE NICENE CREED

STUDY GUIDE FIFTEEN – FROM SERMON ON MAY 24/26

The Christian hope is far bigger than simply “going to heaven when we die.” Scripture points us toward the resurrection of the dead, the renewal of creation, and eternal life with Jesus in a world made new. Because Jesus rose from the grave, death does not have the final word for those who belong to Him. In this study, we’ll reflect on how the resurrection shapes our hope, our grief, our worship, and the way we live today through the power of the Holy Spirit.

OPENING QUESTIONS

Why do you think human beings long for life beyond death?

What are some common cultural ideas about the afterlife? How do they compare with the Christian hope of resurrection?

Why might the resurrection of the body feel surprising or difficult for some people to understand?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Paul says believers should not “grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.” What does hopeful grief look like?

According to this passage, why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to Christian hope?

What details in these verses show that Jesus’ return will be public and victorious rather than secret or hidden?

READ ROMANS 8:11

What role does the Holy Spirit play in the resurrection according to this verse?

How does knowing the Spirit lives in believers give confidence about the future?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-24

Paul calls Christ the “firstfruits” of those who have fallen asleep. What does the image of “firstfruits” communicate?

What connection does Paul make between Adam and death, and between Christ and resurrection life?

How does this passage remind us that resurrection is part of God’s larger plan for His kingdom?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58

In **verse 50**, why does Paul say that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God”?

Paul describes resurrection as a “mystery” in **verses 51-52**. What does that word seem to mean in this context?

In **verses 54-55**, Paul mocks death by saying, “Where, O death, is your victory?” Why can Christians speak so confidently about death?

According to **verses 56-57**, how has Jesus dealt with sin, law, and death?

LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

Read **verse 58** again. What does it mean to “stand firm” and let “nothing move you” in everyday Christian life?

Paul says our labor in the Lord is “not in vain.” How does resurrection hope give meaning to ordinary faithfulness, suffering, and service?

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

What part of these passages most strengthens your hope today?

Is there an area of fear, grief, or discouragement where you need to remember the promise of resurrection?

Spend time thanking God for Jesus’ victory over death and for the Holy Spirit who guarantees the life to come.

CLOSE YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER