



Part 3: The Bible Tells Me So?

Introduction

Theme: Faith & the Resurrection

Key Scripture: John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Focus: How the resurrection launched a movement that led to the formation of the New Testament and why the Gospel accounts can be trusted.

Opening

- What's something you believed confidently as a child that turned out to be untrue?
- When have you found it hard to trust something or someone without seeing proof?

Group Scripture Reading

John 20:1-29

Ask someone to read this aloud, or break it into parts:

- Verses 1-10: Peter and John discover the empty tomb
- Verses 11-18: Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
- Verses 19-23: Jesus appears to the disciples
- Verses 24-29: Jesus and Thomas

Discussion Questions

1. How do you notice the disciples reacting to the empty tomb? What does their confusion tell us about the authenticity of the account?
2. Why do you think John included so many personal and emotional details in this chapter? (e.g., running, linen cloths, names, Thomas' doubt)
3. Jesus tells Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Who was he speaking of? How do you relate to that statement? Where do you feel tension with it?

Truth To Consider

Rich said, "We don't believe in the resurrection because the Bible says so. We believe in the Bible because of the resurrection."

The resurrection was an event, not an idea. The church didn't grow because of the Bible—the Bible came later, to preserve and share what eyewitnesses saw.

Read

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

- What stands out to you in this list of appearances?
- Why does Paul emphasize this so early in church history?

According to scholars, the reliability of the New Testament accounts is bolstered by:

- Women were the first witnesses
- Disciples admitted doubt and failure
- There was no time for legend
- Cowards became martyrs

Which of these most encourages your faith? Why?

Next Steps/Prayer (5-10 minutes)

- What is one step you can take this week to move from doubt toward trust?
- What might it look like to anchor your life to a real event in history—the resurrection?

Closing Prayer Prompt:

Take a moment for each person to reflect quietly. Then pray as a group:

- **Thank God for giving us reliable, eyewitness testimony.**
- **Ask Him to help us move through doubt toward belief.**
- **Thank Him for the hope we have through Jesus, our Living Hope.**