

## For Your Family

Talk with your children about some of the things you need to remind them of, like doing their chores or their homework, or being courteous at the table, or feeding their pets; or how much you love them, and will always take care of them. Things they need to believe in and things they need to do.

Tell them how sometimes even you have to be reminded about important things, by your spouse, your boss, or your smart phone. Sometimes we need help remembering what is important.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve.*

Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth that the most important thing to remember was that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that he was raised from the dead. We are to never forget that. No matter what happens in our life, this will always be true: Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave.

Now read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

*... (Jesus) took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

These verses are about the Lord's Supper of course. Why do you think Jesus tells us that when we take communion, we do it "in remembrance of him"?

Maybe Jesus knew that we would need to be reminded of his death and resurrection, and why it is so important to us. He gave us something to do to remind us. So every time we come to church, we can remember Jesus.

Pray together that you will always remember that Jesus died for our sins, and that he rose from the grave.



**Last Week:** In chapter 12, Paul showed how spiritual gifts were given "for the common good." In chapter 13, he laid down the need for brotherly love to be the foundation of everything, including spiritual gifts. In chapter 14, he applied the command to love with the theme of building up one another. Paul insisted that public worship must build people up. In order to do that, it must be understandable and orderly. He addressed the need for worship to be intelligible in order to edify the saints and convert unbelievers. For that reason, prophecy is greater than tongues. Secondly, he addressed order in worship by laying down some guidelines for worship that would help them to think more about others than themselves.

## Of First Importance

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

**This Week:** In chapter 15, Paul will teach the Christians at Corinth the foundational doctrine of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He starts by reminding them that he had already taught them about this; it was part of the apostolic preaching. He repeats "as of first importance," what some scholars believe was an early creed in the Christian church: that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, was raised from the dead and appeared to many people, all in accordance with the Scriptures. He emphasizes the objective reality of both the death and the resurrection, citing several eyewitnesses, including himself. He reminds them that they have received this gospel, they have taken their stand in it, and are being saved by it.

## Observing

1. What do you think Paul is referring to with the phrase “the gospel I preached to you”? Be as specific as you can.

Why did he need to remind them about it?

2. What does Paul mean by the phrase “of first importance”?

3. Paul uses several phrases to describe the Corinthians’ relationship with the gospel he preached. What do you think the following phrases mean?

- which you received
- in which you stand
- by which you are being saved

4. What are the main points of verses 3-5? (In the ESV, they each begin with the word “that”)

What does Paul mean by the phrase “in accordance with the Scriptures”?

What scriptures would Paul have been referring to?

5. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the resurrection appearances? (vss. 6-9)

6. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the grace of God? (vs. 10)

## Connecting the Dots

Paul’s first recorded sermon is similar to our passage this week. Read Acts 13:16-41 and discuss the following:

1. List all the things Paul says God has done in and for his people. (vss. 17-23)

How does this history prepare for Christ?

2. What do you think is the message of verses 26-31?

3. What is the relationship between the resurrection and the Scriptures Paul quotes? (vss. 30-37)

4. What is Paul’s conclusion, according to verses 38-39?

5. Read Romans 3:21-26 and 8:1-4.

From everything we’ve looked at, what do you think Paul means by being “justified”?

How is this related to the resurrection?

## Continuing the Journey

1. If you had the chance to explain the gospel to an interested friend, what would you say?

2. What does Jesus’ death mean to you personally?

3. What does Jesus’ resurrection mean to you personally?

### Next Steps:

- I will take a stand on the *death, burial, and resurrection*—knowing my belief is not empty speculation.
- I will not get sidetracked with peripheral issues, but will share the gospel message of the *death, burial, and resurrection* of Christ.
- I will hold to the motto: In Essentials—Unity; In Nonessentials—Liberty; In All Things—Love.

### Memory Verse

*1 Corinthians 15:3-5 – For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*