

# Weekly Study Guide

## 4/21/24 - Experience of the Resurrection

### Read the following Bible verses:

“After his passion, Jesus presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” –Acts 1:3

**Verses:** Matthew 26:69-75; Acts 2:14, 22-24, 36-41; 9:1-28; 22:6-21; 26:12-23; Acts 1:3, Ephesians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 10:13; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 1:9-13, 3:1-7

### READ Acts 2:38-41

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### READ Acts 9:20-22

At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

### Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? Are there any common themes?
2. How would you characterize the disciples after Christ’s crucifixion before He was raised to life? How would you characterize the disciples after the resurrection?
3. What do the stories of Peter and Paul have in common? What was their message?
4. Share one takeaway from all of this. How can you apply this to your life? Are there any actions you need to take in light of this?

More on back...

**For later:** Prayerfully ask yourself the following questions...

Do you believe in the historical resurrection of Christ? Do you believe that Jesus lived, died, was buried, and raised bodily? Do you believe that Jesus is still changing lives today? How does this matter or make a difference? Are there any areas of your faith that you struggle to accept or believe? Is there any area of your life that you need to surrender to God, receive forgiveness, commit to the Lord, experience God's grace and love, assurance of salvation, eternal life, or healing?

**Extra:**

After the resurrection, the followers of Jesus were different. They were changed. They had a new boldness and courage. They were willing to die for their belief.

- Example #1 - Peter's transformation from coward to boldly proclaiming the Gospel.
- Example #2 - Paul's transformation from persecutor of the church to Christian.

Virtually overnight, the disciples abandoned many of their long-held sacred beliefs and practices:

- The animal sacrifice system
- The binding supremacy of the law of Moses
- Strict monotheism
- The Sabbath
- Belief in a conquering Messiah

The apostles were all martyred, save one who was exiled to the island of Patmos.

"Here we were, the 12 most powerful men in the United States. All the power of government was at our fingertips, but we could not keep a lie together for three weeks. Are you going to tell me that those powerless Apostles, who were outcasts in their own land could be stoned, persecuted and beaten, some for 40 years, never once denying that Jesus was raised from the dead? Impossible, humanly impossible."  
- Chuck Colson

"It is not irrational to accept the testimony of eyewitnesses who had nothing to gain. The worldly wise do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. So everything from Easter morning to the Ascension had to be made up by the groveling enthusiasts as part of their plan to get themselves martyred." - Antonin Scalia

"...from discouraged, disillusioned men and women, who sadly looked back upon the days when they had hoped Jesus was here, and would redeem Israel, they were made over into a company of enthusiastic witnesses." -Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette

"The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the heroic constancy, patience, and unflinching courage. They had every possible motive to review carefully the ground of their fate, and the evidences of the great facts and truths they asserted." -Dr. Simon Greenleaf

"That a few simple (individuals) should in one generation have invented so powerful and appealing a personality, so lofty an ethic, and so inspiring a vision of human brotherhood, would be a miracle far more incredible than any recorded in the Gospels." -Will Durant