

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 15:1-34



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:1–19** slowly and carefully. Paul begins this chapter by reminding the Corinthians of the **core message of the gospel** and explaining why the **resurrection of Jesus is essential** to the Christian faith.

Observation Prompts

- What message does Paul remind them of?
- What events make up the gospel message?
- Who witnessed the risen Christ?
- What consequences does Paul describe if there is no resurrection?

Read the passage and note what you see:

What does Paul say about the gospel he preached in verses **1–4**?

What witnesses to the resurrection does Paul list in verses **5–8**?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the **death and resurrection of Jesus are the foundation of the gospel**. These events were not myths or private experiences—they were witnessed by many people. Paul then addresses a dangerous belief circulating in Corinth: **some were denying the resurrection of the dead**. Paul shows that if resurrection is impossible, then Christ was not raised—and if Christ was not raised, the entire Christian faith collapses.

Questions to Explore:

Why does Paul begin by reminding them of the gospel they received?

Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian message?

What does the list of witnesses tell us about the reliability of the resurrection?

What would be the consequences if Christ had not been raised?

Word Study Suggestions:

- **Gospel (v.1):** the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection that brings salvation
- **Saved (v.2):** being rescued from sin and judgment through faith in Christ
- **According to the Scriptures (vv.3–4):** showing that Jesus' death and resurrection fulfilled God's promised plan in the Old Testament
- **Appeared (v.5):** a visible, physical appearance of the risen Christ to witnesses
- **Raised (v.4):** God bringing Jesus back to life, confirming His victory over death and sin

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

The resurrection is not an optional belief—it is central to the gospel and to the hope of every believer.

Personal Reflection:

How confident am I in the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection?

How does the resurrection strengthen my faith in the gospel?

Do I live with the hope that Christ has truly conquered death?

How does this truth shape my response to suffering, loss, or fear?

How does the promise of resurrection shape my priorities and decisions today?

Are there influences in my life that weaken my confidence in the truth of the gospel?

How can the hope of resurrection encourage perseverance in difficult seasons?

Summary Truths:

- The gospel centers on the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- The resurrection was witnessed by many and proclaimed by the apostles.
- If Christ had not been raised, the Christian faith would be empty.
- Because Christ lives, believers have real hope.

Optional Memory Verse:

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”
— *1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)*

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord Jesus, thank You that the gospel is rooted in real events—Your death and resurrection. Strengthen my faith in the truth of Your victory over death.”

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- **Isaiah 53:5–12** — The prophecy of the suffering servant and the promise of life after death

- **Luke 24:1–12** — The resurrection of Jesus
- **Acts 2:22–32** — Peter proclaims the resurrection of Christ
- **Romans 10:9–10** — Salvation connected to belief in the resurrection