

Study 1 – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Big Idea: The Gospel which the Corinthians received, and which could save them, is a Gospel regarding the *resurrection* of Jesus.

Opening Discussion: What difference would it make to Christianity if Jesus didn't *actually* rise from the dead?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. Let's have a go at breaking the passage up into different parts; In groups of 2-3, have a go at dividing these verses into sections. *Share back with the group afterwards.*

Verses 1-2

2. In verse 1 Paul says he wants to remind the Corinthians of the gospel. Now, surely that's a good thing to do. But there's at least 3 *particular* reasons why he wants to do that here. So, why does Paul want to remind them of the gospel considering...
 - a. ...first, what we've seen so far of the Corinthians as a church?
 - b. ...second, what we learn about the gospel from verse 2?
 - c. ...last, what the Corinthians were thinking from verse 12?
3. Verse 2 really ups the stakes; how is verse 2 both an encouragement and a warning?
 - a. (Application): Which are you personally feeling more at the moment – the encouragement or the warning?

Verses 3-8

4. What's the effect on us as readers as we hear Paul say that these things particularly are of 'first importance'?
5. What things had the Corinthians been valuing as critically important?
6. There are 5 verses worth of things that fit into this 'first importance' category; what's a summary of what he says?
7. What stands out to you as the main thing he is emphasising, and why?
8. Why do you think Paul makes a point about some witnesses still being alive?

Verses 9-11

9. Have a look at verses 9-11 now. What things do we learn about the Apostle Paul here? (events in his life, the way he thinks of himself, his work as an Apostle etc.)
10. Why do you think he goes on this tangent about himself? He's been reminding them of the gospel...so why does he move from that to now talking about himself?
 - a. **[If the group is struggling]:** How does verse 11 help us understand?

Bringing it all together...

11. Why was it so important for the Corinthians – and for us! – to be clear on the basics of the gospel?
12. Paul put particular stress on the resurrection – why is it important that the resurrection *actually* happened?
13. Some of the Corinthians had prioritized their own personal recognition people who are really spiritual because of their spiritual gifts – rather than letting the gospel be of first importance. What things in our lives are we tempted to view as being important even above the gospel?

Pray:

- That the gospel would be of first importance to us in all of life
- Thanking God for the truth of the resurrection – and that the many witnesses used their lives to tell others
- For other things going on in peoples' lives