

INTRO

- What do you love/hate most about the technological revolution?
- What technology have you benefitted from the most?

READ

1 Cor 15:1-11

REFLECT & RESPOND

Christians believe and confess that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Nonetheless, some people believe the main point is Jesus' life and teachings. Read 1 Cor 15:17.

Qu: what's at stake if we don't believe in Jesus' resurrection? Why do you think it matters?

Granted, the resurrection of Jesus is quite a claim both historically and supernaturally. Yet, Christianity rises and falls on this claim being true.

Qu: what are some good reasons to believe in the resurrection?

One of the reasons is that the resurrection of the crucified Jesus revolutionized Jesus' earliest followers. His resurrection caused them to relook Jesus' life, death, and mission.

JESUS' LIFE

God raising Jesus from the dead vindicated Jesus's, life, teachings, claims, promises, and actions.

Qu: Why should we look at Jesus' life and teachings through the truth of his resurrection?

JESUS' DEATH

If Jesus had stayed dead, no-one would have given a second thought to attaching significance to his crucifixion. Yet, 1 Cor 15:3 tells us that "Christ died for our sins." The gravity of our human sin condition is confirmed in the crucifixion.

Qu: how would you explain the importance of Christ dying for our sin to someone who isn't religious?

Sin is a multifaceted concept in Scripture. We can speak of *sin producing sins*—the power of 'sin' over people working itself out in the specific 'sins' of individuals which oppose God's purposes for humanity as created in God's image. Jesus' death decisively dealt with sin in 2 primary ways:

1. *Atonement for sin*: Jesus does everything necessary so that our sin is justly condemned and forgiven, and lovingly restores us back to God;
2. *Deliverance from sin*: Jesus exerts ultimate victory over sin, Satan and death providing us a way to live free from their bondage.

Qu: share an example of how you've experienced Jesus' work on the cross in your own life.

JESUS' MISSION

Christ died and rose again "according to the scriptures" (1 Cor 15:4). In other words, it was divinely orchestrated according to God's eternal plan. As the early followers of Jesus came to grips with the ramifications of his resurrection, it brought sharper focus to their understanding about God's work in the world. The resurrection is the good news that God in Christ is committed to the renewal, reconciliation and resurrection of all things, and has begun by creating a new humanity no longer 'in Adam', but 'in Christ'. And all have been invited into this new humanity and joining God in the renewal of all things.

Qu: how does Jesus resurrection give you hope?

PRAY

- Spend time responding in prayer using UP-IN-OUT as a guide.
- Pray that your life would be an example to others of God's transforming power.