

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 5, 2015

1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 12-14

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

### New International Version (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

**Connection Questions:**

1. Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Explain.
2. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? If so, explain what that means to you.
3. List the various arguments you have for why you believe in God. Make another list of reasons why you believe in the revolutionary message of the rebel Jesus.
4. Can you prove the existence of God? Why or why not?
5. Why is faith so important in growing in our relationship with God?

6. Talk about any sacrifices you make because you believe in the revolutionary lifestyle that Jesus taught and share why you sacrifice.
  
7. Do you think faith and doubt go together? If so, explain how.
  
8. Paul asserts that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, our preaching is in vain and so is our faith. Do you agree?
  
9. The resurrected Jesus doesn't just transform the way we view ourselves but causes us to see others in a new light. Discuss how he helps us to see others in a new light.
  
10. We ask you as a group to pray the prayer in unison as you end your class.  
"Lord, by no means do I fully comprehend who you are. But I commit today to give my life to you... not just in words, but in action. With all my imperfections, I accept your love and forgiveness, and I extend it to others. I pledge my allegiance to the rebel Jesus and commit myself to the renegade gospel. Not my will but your will be done. In Jesus' name. Amen."