



How to Share the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

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How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.str.org/w/a-new-testament-passage-that-s-older-than-the-new-testament>

[https://biblehub.com/q/1 Cor 15 3 s role in Jesus death proof.htm](https://biblehub.com/q/1_Cor_15_3_s_role_in_Jesus_death_proof.htm)

<https://reasons.org/christianity/history/spread-of-christianity>

Discussion Guide Outline:

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1. The Preeminence of the Gospel. Vv. 1-3
2. The Singular Uniqueness of the Gospel. Vv. 4-5
3. The Receivers of the Gospel. Vv. 6-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

The Fact of Christ's Resurrection

- 1 Now I make known to you,
brethren, the gospel which I
preached to you, which also
you received, in which also you
stand,
- 2 by which also you are saved, if
you hold fast the word which I
preached to you, unless you
believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered to you as of first
importance what I also
received, that Christ died for
our sins according to the
Scriptures,
- 4 and that He was buried, and that
He was raised on the third
day according to the
Scriptures,
- 5 and that He appeared to Cephas,
then to the twelve.
- 6 After that He appeared to more
than five hundred brethren at
one time, most of whom
remain until now, but
some have fallen asleep;
- 7 then He appeared to James, then
to all the apostles;

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

INTRODUCTION AND MAIN IDEA

1. What keeps us from keeping the main thing in the main?

2. Why is the Gospel such a big deal for you?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. The Preeminence of the Gospel. Vv. 1-3

3. There is much evidence, from historical and scholarly sources, that this is the oldest recorded credal statement of the Church, why did the early Church have creeds? What is noteworthy about the Holy Spirit inspiring Paul to include this creed in scripture?

4. Read these other credal statements: 1 Tim. 3:16; Acts 2:22-36; Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 12:29-31; John 1:1-14; 1 Cor. 8:6

5. Why were these creeds important to the first Church and why are they still important?

6. Why is it important to “remember and remind”, and why was this encouraged in the last sayings of Christ and here by Paul? (Luke 22:19; Rev. 2:5, 3:3)

II. The Singular Uniqueness of the Gospel. Vv. 4-5

7. How does the uniqueness of the Gospel correlate to the uniqueness of FATHER GOD? (Isa. 44:6, 8, 45:5; Hosea 13:4; Joel 2:27; Rom. 1:16)

8. How did the statement of CHRIST in John 14:6 point to HIS uniqueness, and point to the substance of this creed? (“CHRIST is either lunatic, liar, or LORD”)

9. How did the belief in CHRIST being “raised”, “seated at the right hand of the FATHER”, and “coming in the clouds” affect the Church? (Matt. 26:64) How does this same belief separate the Church from the world religions today? *No other “leader/visionary/messiah-touted” person has ever arisen from the dead, or ever will, in and of themselves.*

10. What is your personal “plain as your nose” evidence for the validity of the Gospel?

III. The Receivers of the Gospel. Vv. 6-8

11. What qualified any of the people listed here as worthy of CHRIST appearing to them? (John 18:17, 25-27; John 15:16) The Gospel comes undeservedly to the unsuspecting by humanly unbelievable means.

12. Has CHRIST “appeared” to you, and how?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

1 Cor. 15:1–58 The Futility of Faith If the Dead Are Not Raised. Many people in the ancient Greco-Roman world believed that death extinguished life completely or led to a permanent but shadowy and insubstantial existence in the underworld. The concept of a physical, embodied existence after death was known mainly from popular fables and was thought laughable by the educated. Paul deals with the Corinthians' denial of (v. 12) and confusion about (v. 35) the future, bodily resurrection of Christians. These issues were probably raised in their letter to him (7:1).

1 Cor. 15:1–11 The Truthfulness of the Traditions about Christ's Resurrection. Paul first establishes the historical reliability of Jesus' resurrection in order to lay a firm foundation for his argument that it was only the first step in the resurrection of all deceased Christians.

1 Cor. 15:1–4 you received . . . I delivered. Paul is using commonly recognized language for handing on, intact, a body of information that one has received from others (see 11:2, 23; Mark 7:13; Luke 1:2; Acts 6:14; Phil. 4:9; Jude 3). in accordance with the Scriptures. See also Luke 24:27; John 2:19, 22; Acts 17:2–3; Rom. 1:2–4. Paul may be thinking especially of Isa. 53:3–12, which describes the substitutionary death and the vindication, after death, of God's servant, but he may also be thinking of other OT passages. For the resurrection, see also Hos. 6:2 and Jonah 1:17; 2:1 (Matt. 12:40), and for the OT in general pointing to Christ, see Luke 24:25–27 and the article, Overview of the Bible.

1 Cor. 15:5 Cephas is the Aramaic name for the apostle Peter (Gal. 2:8–9). He and John were the first of the men who followed Jesus to know that his tomb was empty (Luke 24:12; John 20:5–6; cf. Mark 16:7). The twelve includes Judas's replacement, Matthias (see Acts 1:21–23, 26).

1 Cor. 15:6 These witnesses were still alive and therefore able to give firsthand testimony to the truth of this tradition. though some have fallen asleep. Paul is careful not to exaggerate (cf. 7:10, 12, where he carefully distinguishes between his own words and Jesus' words), evidence of the great care that early Christians took in their preservation of the historically accurate details about Jesus.

1 Cor. 15:7 James was the brother of the Lord (Gal. 1:19) and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; Gal. 2:9, 12). See note on 1 Cor. 9:4–5. all the apostles. The group of apostles is larger than "the Twelve," including, among others, James and Paul (1 Cor. 15:8). One of the qualifications for apostleship was seeing the risen Lord (9:1).

1 Cor. 15:8 Last of all. Sandwiched between vv. 7 and 9, this suggests that Paul thought there would be no more apostles chosen after him. appeared also to me. Making Paul an apostle (see note on 1:1).