

**Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Pastor John Fortune. April 5'26:**  
**“Easter Sunday: The Empty Tomb” 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.**

*From Brendan: “These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!”*

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer. **Optional:** take communion together!

**Icebreaker Question:**

- How did you celebrate Easter and the risen Christ this past weekend?

**Follow-up from last week:**

- Did you have opportunity to practice entrusting a specific part of your life (e.g. your future, time, anxieties, identity, etc.) into the Father’s hands this week? How did it go?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (What stands out to you?)**

1. The sermon emphasizes that the resurrection is a historical claim, not merely symbolic language. Why does it matter that Christianity is rooted in something that is claimed to have actually happened in history?
2. The sermon argues that the simplest explanation for the empty tomb is that God raised Jesus from the dead. What do you find most significant about this claim for understanding who Jesus is?
3. The Gospels record that women were the first witnesses to the empty tomb, even though their testimony carried less cultural credibility at the time. What does this detail suggest about the nature of the gospel accounts?
4. Paul highlights witnesses who were unlikely believers — James, who had been skeptical, and Paul, who had opposed the church. Why might these particular witnesses strengthen the credibility of the resurrection claim?
5. Paul describes the resurrection as “of first importance.” Why do you think the early church placed the resurrection at the very centre of the Christian message?

**Life Application:**

6. If the resurrection of Jesus is true, how should that realistically change the way you live this week? What is one belief or habit in your life that doesn’t line up with the idea that Jesus rose from the dead—and what would it look like to change it?