

The Great Questions of Life
“The Question of Destiny: Where Are We Going?”
For the week of February 11, 2018
New City Church of LA

GROW & SERVE GROUP GUIDE

Start with Prayer

Get to Know One Another: Share your favorite Olympic memory.

Discuss Your Serve Portion

Lent Reflection (read this reflection by Robert Barren):

Our forty-day Lenten journey toward Easter is fundamentally an *imitatio Christi*—an imitation of Jesus’ time in the desert. It’s a time of simplicity, purification, and self-denial, of setting aside our distractions and diversions and getting back to basics: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

But this is also a season for confronting the desert of our own sin. Because God is the source of life, abandoning God forms a desert land around us. We tend to cover up our sins, make excuses for them, or dull our sensitivity to them. But during Lent, we intentionally venture into the desert, realizing the depths of our sin, and repenting, in order that we might find Christ’s path back to life.

With our eyes fixed on the coming glory of Easter, let us together enter into this desert time of self-denial, ready to break out of the cramped, barren space of self-absorption.

[Spend a couple of minutes mediating on what you can give up for lent to imitate Christ’s time in the desert; and then, share.]

Please announce: Ash Wednesday service is this Wednesday (2/14) at 7 PM in the church office. This Sunday, Pastor Kevin will kick-off a Lent sermon series called Desert Times, digging into 5 aspects of the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

Reflecting on the Sermon

The resurrection of Jesus tells us where we are going, our ultimate destiny. From 1 Corinthians 15, Pastor Kevin shared (1) the evidence of the resurrection; and (2) the significance of the resurrection.

The Apostles didn’t tell people to just believe the resurrection of Jesus. They were witnesses to the fact and presented evidence of the resurrection. These eye-witness accounts are good evidence of the resurrection because: (1) there are numerous witness statements attesting to the fact written within 15-20 years after the resurrection, a time not long enough to become a legend; (2) the accounts are too counterproductive to be a

legend (if they made it up, they would not have included some of these details); (3) the accounts are too detailed to be legends; (4) there is no other plausible explanation for the start of the church; and (5) the witnesses died for their faith. You can't philosophically argue away this historical fact by saying that it is a miracle and miracles don't happen. The only way to determine if it is true is to see if there is adequate historical evidence. And there is good historical evidence of the resurrection of Jesus.

The significance of the resurrection: The resurrection shows us (1) that our sins are forgiven; (2) that someday, we will also be resurrected into the kind of super-physical body that Jesus resurrected into; and (3) that this resurrection power is available for us in the present.

Discussion Questions from the Sermon

1. Share one thing you learned or applied to your life from the sermon. Any questions from the sermon?

Going Deeper: Bible Study

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15 (the entire chapter—it's a long chapter) slowly and meditatively.
2. What evidence does Paul present for the resurrection? (see vv. 3-8)
3. Verses 12-19 say that if resurrection is not true, we are people to be pitied. Why is the belief in the resurrection essential to our faith? (hint: if we don't believe in the resurrection, Christianity is mostly about moral teachings of Jesus as opposed to the cross.)
4. What is the resurrected body like? (see 35-54)
5. How does the belief in the resurrection help us live in the present? (compare vv. 32-34 to vv. 54-58)
6. How will this passage change how you live?

Share what's going on in your life.

Pray for one another, the church, and your neighborhood