

Discussion Questions for the week of March 20, 2016

#HE GONE

WHY THE RESURRECTION ISN'T A FAIRY TALE

BIG IDEA:

Why we believe what we believe matters. Without facts our faith fails; with facts our faith is firm. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is supported by facts that point to the truth that #HeGone.

ICE BREAKER:

What are some things you thought were real but found out were fake?

DISCUSSION:

1. Did the resurrection really happen? Was the resurrection of Jesus a proven historical fact? How do you know?

2. As we head into Easter this weekend, what difference does it make if the resurrection is true or not?

3. What are the implications if the resurrection isn't real? Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Christ is still dead, our faith is in vain, we misrepresent God, we are liars, we are still in our sins, everyone who is dead are facing judgment, we are fools.

4. What explanations against the resurrection have you heard or can you come up with for why Jesus' tomb is empty? Think through possible scenarios and discuss why they are a good possibility or bad.

Disciples stole the body [they were cowards and ran away at the crucifixion, tomb was guarded by Roman guard]; Jesus swooned (didn't die, just sorta passed out) [he was beaten mercilessly, spear driven in his side, and pronounced dead by professional Roman soldiers]; imposter (twin brother) [popular among Muslims but makes no sense]

5. Read these scriptures and discuss each of the evidences for the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

(Many of the scriptures are similar – due to the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), so you may want to only read a few, or all!)

Honorable Burial

Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42

Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-7, Matthew 28:11-15, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-3, John 20:1-10

Girls Reported (And Hundreds of Others)

Matthew 28:8-10, Mark 16:9-14, Luke 24, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Outbreak of Christianity

Acts 2:37-47, Acts 4:20, Acts 5:33-42

New Worship Day

Experience (Life-Change)

6. How has H.E.G.O.N.E. (Honorable Burial, Empty Tomb, Girls Reported (and hundreds of others), Outbreak of Christianity, New Worship Day, Experience (Life-Change)) changed the way you think about the resurrection?

APPLICATION:

How has your experience meeting the resurrected Jesus looked like? What life change have you noticed or others noticed in you?

The disciples were willing to die to tell people that #HeGone. Who can you share the truth that #HeGone with this week?