**Christ Alone – Week 3 (The Resurrection)**

**April 13-14, 2019**

**Today, we are finishing up our Christ Alone series! We have talked about who Jesus is, his ministry, and his death on a cross. We finish today with the account of his resurrection.**

Jesus told his disciples that he was going to raise from the dead, but they never actually understood him…and maybe they didn’t even believe him! Mark 8:31 says – *“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”*

Luke 18:31-34 says – *“Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”*

He tried to tell them! In spite of the fact that Jesus did many miracles in front of the disciples, they were still unsure about whether or not Jesus was going to be KILLED…let alone come back to life! However, as we talked about last week, we do know that Jesus was killed. He was eventually buried in a tomb that was inside a large slab of rock. The Roman soldiers were instructed to roll a huge stone in front of the opening of the tomb so that no one could get to Jesus’ body.

Let’s read about the resurrection in Luke 24:1-8 – *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but then the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living from among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:* ***The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”*** *Then they remembered his words.”*

Can you imagine what they must have been thinking? “Who took Jesus’ body? What have they done with it? How could this happen? How did they move that giant stone out of the way?” However, two angels appear and say that Jesus had risen…RISEN FROM THE DEAD! If you have been resurrected, you have a heavenly body free from pain and imperfection. Jesus wasn’t just in a coma and then woke up. He was dead…and THEN CAME BACK TO LIFE!

Jesus later appears to his disciples and they cannot believe their eyes. He’s back! One of the disciples, Thomas, wasn’t with them and doesn’t believe them. He says, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and feet, I won’t believe it.” A week later, Jesus shows up again by literally walking through the wall and appearing to Thomas. Wow! He really was resurrected. This miracle brought all of us back into relationship with God.

**THP: Jesus brought us back to God.**

This is an incredible story! Jesus brought us back into relationship with God through his death on the cross and his resurrection. Jesus’s resurrection shows us that death has been defeated! All of the sin in this world was defeated by Jesus because he rose from the dead…even death couldn’t beat Jesus. In fact, if we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we, too, will not truly die. Our bodies will be resurrected in the same way and we will spend eternity with Him. As amazing as that sounds, we can be in relationship with God now! God can change our hearts and life right now…not just later! We should not follow Christ and devote our life to him just so we can get into heaven someday. God wants us to experience him now!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ birthed an entire movement: a movement of people who believed Jesus had raised from the dead and completely devoted to this his teachings. They began telling everyone they knew. Some of them experienced the same things Jesus did for their faith…they were mocked, insulted, beaten, and many were even put to death just like Jesus.

I want to close with one final passage of Scripture to show us the impact of the resurrection. This story comes from the book of Acts, which was written by Luke, and it details many of the events of the early Church after Jesus rose from the dead. Peter and some of the other apostles have been arrested for proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus. The people in court were furious and they eventually send the apostles out of the room to decide their fate.

Acts 5:33-39 – *“When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.* ***Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”***

Gamaliel was right. The early Christians could not be stopped. They were people who were preaching about their Messiah, Jesus Christ. Hundreds became thousands, thousands became hundreds of thousands, and then it became millions. Almost 2000 years later, there are millions of Christians all over the world. God has impacted each of them uniquely, but one thing remains true: they came to realize the truth of the Gospel (which means “good news”) and significance of Jesus dying on the cross for their sins and then rising from the dead.

I think this illustration will help us understand the story of Easter and the Gospel in a deeper way. At this time, leaders, give everyone in your group those three blocks at your table…

**(Leaders Note: Begin explaining Gospel message through the Lego block illustration. Prompt the students and leaders to follow and do it along with you.)**

I have a question for you to think about: Do you need a relationship with this God? Do you know that He wants a relationship with you? Our THP says Jesus brought us back to God, not because of anything we’ve done, but because of everything Jesus has done. Do you need to be brought to him for the first time? If you are a Christian, do you need to be brought BACK to God because you’ve decided to live your life for other things?

**(Leaders Note: Show “Son of Man” video – after the video is finished, transition into a Gospel presentation and response time)**