

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of March 31, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 28	Tuesday	Mark 16	Wednesday	Luke 24
Thursday	John 20	Friday	John 21	Saturday	1 Corinthians 15

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Resurrection Wonder*

**Next week's readings:** Matthew 28:1-10, Proverbs 9:10

There is a lot about the Resurrection that we can know and understand, and we have good reason to believe in its truth. But it is also a miraculous wonder. It is way beyond our control, and it can give us peace and power beyond our own imagination. Join us next week as learn from the Bible about the joy of Resurrection wonder.



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# Group Discussion

Connect	Do you have any favorite childhood memories or traditions from Easter - whether you were a Christian at that time or not?
Learn	<p><b>Read Mark 16:1-8.</b> Resurrection is obviously a miraculous claim. It's not something that can be repeated or verified in a laboratory by independent review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As you read this story, what features of the story would make a critical reader suspicious of its truth?</li><li>• What features of the story suggest that this is not made up or fictional?</li></ul> <p><b>Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In this passage, Paul leaves out the female witnesses to the risen Jesus. Some people suggest this is because Paul was biased toward male apostles. Others understand that he was trying to offer the most persuasive evidence possible to his Corinthian audience, and ancient cultures were notoriously chauvinistic. Regardless of the unexplained motives of 1 Corinthians, what does it mean that the women are reported in the resurrection stories of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?</li><li>• This passage and others refer to many, specific witnesses to the risen Jesus, including Cephas (Peter). We know from other passages that Paul and Cephas sometimes disagreed about the best ways to implement the gospel or were even understood as rivals (1 Corinthians 3:21-22). How is it helpful to see Paul citing Cephas and many others as witnesses to the resurrection?</li></ul> <p><b>Read Matthew 28:1-10.</b> This story has both important parallels and important differences from the story of the resurrection in Mark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare both stories. What are the important similarities?</li><li>• People sometimes suggest that the Bible is rigged to endorse only one viewpoint. The early Christians knew both stories very well (along with the ones in Luke and John) and included them together in the Bible. What does this suggest to you about the authenticity of their individual testimonies or the motives of the Christians who gathered the Bible stories together?</li></ul>
Apply	Did you notice that the Resurrection stories don't ever say, "Jesus was raised, therefore Christians will have eternal life." It's not that this isn't true or wasn't understood by those Christians, but it's not the first conclusion they jumped to. (This too reassures us that the Resurrection stories were not made up later on to make Christians feel better or promote their agendas.) The stories say, "Jesus was raised, now get to work." The witnesses were commissioned to go and tell and, soon enough, to start living like Jesus really is Lord. If Easter is real and Jesus really is alive, is there anything in your life that you feel called to change?
Pray	The resurrection of Jesus is hope for the whole world. In your prayers today, pray for people you know who need the hope of Christ in their lives.