L GROUNDWORK

I Believe the Son has Risen

The Apostles' Creed articulates one of the most foundational truths of the Christian faith when it says, "The third day he rose again from the dead." Jesus Christ was dead, but God the Father raised him from death and he lives. Join us as we look at the biblical significance of "the third day," examine the scriptural details of resurrection day, identify what the resurrection affirms about Jesus, and discuss what it means for us.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever heard someone challenge the validity or question the reality of the resurrection? If so, what were their arguments or reasons?
- In your own words, what is the significance or meaning of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: <u>I Believe the Son has Risen</u>

READ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Luke 24:36-48, Revelation 1:12-18

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In *The Good News We Almost Forgot*, author and pastor Kevin DeYoung, describes the resurrection of Jesus Christ using non-traditional language. He writes, "Easter is about a divine Galilean whose heart pumped blood again, whose lungs filled with oxygen again, and whose synapses started firing again" (p. 91). What do you like about DeYoung's definition? Why is it useful? What do you think it misses?
- Why do Christians follow the command Jesus Christ gives in <u>Luke 24:45-49</u> and <u>Matthew 28:18-20</u> to share the good news of the Gospel? Why are we still "witnesses" to these things, even though we aren't 1st century Christians/first-hand witnesses?
- What does it mean to you that the "resurrection means the death of Jesus was enough—enough to atone for sin, enough to reconcile us to God, enough to present us holy in God's presence" (DeYoung p.92-93)? Does this truth fill you with hope? If so, why?
- How would you describe what it feels like to have hope even in your grief or hope even when you're afraid?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Acts 10:40-41, Acts 1:3, Matthew 27:62-28:20, Mark 16, John 20-21, Hebrews 2:14-15, John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15

CONCLUSION

Read, reflect, and respond in prayer to this excerpt from Fleming Rutledge's book, *The Undoing of Death*:

"But now, dearly beloved of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, hear this news:

Descending from the realm of light and life, invading the impenetrable darkness of the kingdom of Death and plundering it of all its treasure, comes One "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). To his infinitely precious children by baptism and the Holy Spirit he says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and he who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). He is the Alpha and the Omega, the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star, risen with healing in his wings: Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

'Believest thou this?'" (p. 279).

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