THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPENING UP: Why is the resurrection central to the message of Christianity? 1 Corinthians 15:14–19; Acts 2:22–24; Romans 1:4

A How central is it to your life? What specifically would be different about your life if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead?

 If you lived in a greater awareness that the resurrection power of Christ lives in you, what would have been different about your day today? (Romans 8:11)

R Kent Hughes wrote, "He was going to be all a mortal should be, tomorrow. No one would be better than he, tomorrow. But the fact is he died and faded from view. And all that was left when living was through, was a mountain of things he intended to do, tomorrow." If procrastination often has negative results, why do people still put off doing things?

🗱 What does it look like to procrastinate when it comes to spiritual things?

How does God's word encourage us to avoid procrastination when it comes to spiritual things? See James 4:13–14, Luke 10:38–42, Psalm 90:12, Hebrews 3:13, Ecclesiastes 5:4–7.

What are some areas of your life where you know God wants to work, but you've struggled obeying right away? Share with your group so they can pray for and encourage you.

2 Read Acts 24:24–27. What were the key points of Paul's sermon to Felix and Drusilla in Acts 24? What do you find most striking about his message?

Q Why do you think Paul focused on those areas? Why do you think Felix and Drusilla ignored Paul's warning?

3 At this period the Christians did not have a standard word for themselves, and nobody else knew what to call them either. Paul uses the term "the Way" in Acts 24:14 (see also Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:25-26; 19:9, 23; 24:22). Why is "the Way" a fitting term for following Christ?

4) What are some of the ways that you find it difficult to transition general conversations into gospel conversations?

Q What does Acts 24 teach you about how to do that more effectively?

What tips and tricks can you share with others in your group from times where you've been able to make the bridge work?

5 Paul was kept in custody by Felix for two years, then was left in prison when Felix left office (Acts 24:27). Imagine yourself in Paul's position during this time. What conflicting thoughts and feelings would you be having?

A Think of a time when you were waiting for an extended period of time. What were your thoughts and prayers then?

In times when everything is on hold and nothing positive seems to be happening, how can Paul's experience be a help to you?