

# 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

## “Jesus: Most Important”

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *“For I delivered to you as of first importance ...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (NASB)*

**Lesson Focus:** We will emphasize what the apostle Paul emphasizes in this text: That knowing and trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely essential to our faith. It is of “first importance” because it is real and it really matters. Then we will challenge the kids to make it real in their own lives.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Empty Tomb, Crossword Puzzle of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for all Grades: Wooden Crosses or Egg/Cross Decorations

**Starter Activity:** Most Important Things!

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room for our starter activity. We will watch a silly video that will transition us into some discussion about most important things.

Q: What did Barbie think was really important in life? Glitter! This is silly as there are a lot more important things in life than glitter. Some things are more important than others. Which of these do you think is more important?

- 1) Water or SmartPhone
- 2) Bread or Doughnuts
- 3) Exercise or Fortnite (video games) \*
- 4) Valentine’s Day or Easter
- 5) Being Good or Believing in Jesus

As we have studied through the gospel of John, we have seen over and over again that John’s goal in writing this book is so that we would BELIEVE. (**John 20:31**)

Q: But are there certain things that are more important for us to believe about Jesus than others?  
Yes!

- 1) That Jesus is nice or that He is God and the Creator of all things?
- 2) That Jesus had a beard or that He is the One Way to be saved?

As we look at our text today, the apostle Paul is going to tell us what is the most important for us to believe as Christians. Now dismiss the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to their class.

## Bible Study:

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the ancient church at Corinth in Greece. He was a missionary there and planted this church. He deeply loved these Christians, but they, like Barbie, had become confused about what were the most important things.

**1 Corinthians 15:1:** Paul reminds them of what he had already taught them and what they had already received: the gospel!

Q: What does the word gospel mean? Good news!

Q: What are some examples of “good news” that you may have heard?

A: Grandma is healed! We are going to Disneyland! Snow day! \*

But why is the gospel “good news”? Let’s look at the next verse.

**1 Corinthians 15:2a:** By it we are saved!

Q: What does it mean to be saved?

A: It means you are rescued from something dangerous! \*

God is a holy and perfect God Who will punish us for our sin and the bad things we have done. Through the gospel we are saved from God’s FOREVER punishment. We deserve this punishment because of our sin and evil. This is the BAD NEWS.

**1 Corinthians 15:2b:** We must “hold fast” to this gospel through belief.

Q: What does it mean to “hold fast” to something?

A: You cling tightly and don’t let go! If you want to ride your bike and not crash, what is one of the **most important** things to do? HOLD ON!

We HOLD ON to the gospel by believing in this good news every day! But what is it exactly that we are to believe? The next two verses tell us!

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4:** This is the core of what Christians have believed for 2000 years:

- 1) That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
  - Remember the BAD NEWS? Jesus Christ, the God-Man, willingly died on the cross to take the BAD NEWS upon Himself that we deserve! (**Romans 5:8**)
- 2) That He was buried.
  - Q: Why is this important? A: It PROVES that He really died!
- 3) That He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.
  - This is what we celebrate today and how we know we are actually saved! If Jesus was still dead, we might be wondering....um, did Jesus REALLY save us? \*

Let's repeat these three key truths together! This is MOST IMPORTANT as Paul said in v. 3. Why? Because it is REAL and it REALLY MATTERS.

First, the MOST IMPORTANT things in life are REAL.

Q: What if I asked you when (in history) did Goldilocks visit the 3 bears?

A: Nonsense! It's a fun fairy tale that teaches a lesson, but it isn't a REAL story.

Q: What if I asked you when Jesus died and rose from the grave?

A: You would say about 2000 years ago, because it is a REAL story. It is different from Goldilocks because it actually happened!

**1 Corinthians 15:5-6:** Paul writes that the risen Jesus was seen by a lot of people, over five hundred people even!

Q: How do you know Abraham Lincoln is the president known for ending slavery in America? Have you met him or seen him in person?

A: You know because there were witnesses who recorded what happened. Therefore, we can know with confidence who he was and what he did 160 years ago!

In the same way, there were witnesses who saw Jesus's death and resurrection and wrote down what happened (the four gospels). Therefore, we can know with confidence who Jesus was and what He did 2000 years ago! \*

There were many people who did not believe that Jesus rose from the grave and Paul and the other apostles were able to tell them, "Don't just take my word for it. Go ask one of the five hundred who saw it! They are still alive!"

So we have good reasons to believe that this gospel is REAL. But does it REALLY MATTER? Going back to Barbie: glitter is real, but it does NOT really matter! The MOST IMPORTANT things in life REALLY MATTER!

**1 Corinthians 15:7-9:** Continuing in our text, the risen Jesus also appeared to James, other apostles, and Paul, the writer of this letter.

Q: Who was Paul before he met the risen Jesus Christ?

A: He was an enemy of the Christians! He had Stephen martyred and threw Christians into jail! He was also a well-respected and famous Jew.

- But after he met Jesus? He became the fiercest defender of the faith. He freely gave up his superstar status and power \* in return for jail-time and beatings because he knew Jesus's resurrection actually happened (it was REAL!).

If it didn't really matter, why would Paul give all of that up? Paul, James, Peter, and many other apostles all went to their death preaching this gospel because it is REAL and it REALLY MATTERS!

**Teachers:** Consider sharing with your kids why you are teaching them right now. Is it only because you think Jesus is cool? Or is it because His death, burial, and resurrection is REAL and it REALLY MATTERS? \*

**Key Point:** We celebrate Easter every year with tremendous joy and excitement not only because it is amazing that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and conquered death, but also because we recognize it as MOST IMPORTANT.

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:14:** Paul is very clear. If the resurrection isn't real and if it didn't matter, then it is all empty and pointless! Would Paul give up everything he had for something he knew to be false and pointless? NO WAY!

The gospel is not like Goldilocks, but it is REAL.  
The gospel is not like glitter, but it REALLY MATTERS.

The gospel is MORE IMPORTANT than whatever Easter gifts you get this weekend.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:15:** If you believe in Jesus Christ and in His death, burial, and resurrection, show your faith in Him to be real by no longer living for yourself, but for Him!

Remember it is more important to "believe in Jesus" than it is to be good. Rather believe in Him and He will make you good!

# Easter Devotional

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Most Important”**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9**

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *“For I delivered to you **as of first importance** ...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (NASB)*

**Teachers/Parents:** To get our lesson started, we got the kids thinking about things that are most important in life. What are some things that you think are important? What are some things that you know are not that important, but might actually be given more importance they deserve by our affections?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**. Paul says that they have already received the gospel, but yet he is about to declare it to them again. Why do you think he would do this if they already have heard it before?
- 2) In **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, Paul includes the burial of Jesus Christ in with the confession of His death and resurrection. Why is the burial so important?
- 3) The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ not only actually happened in history, but happened “according to the Scriptures”. This means that the Old Testament had predicted and foreshadowed this event. Why is this significant?
- 4) In **1 Corinthians 15:5-6**, Paul mentions others who can testify to the facts of the resurrection event. Contrast this with many other world religions that have one central figure who had a private spiritual experience and then started a religion. How is Christianity’s origin different and also more convincing and amazing?
- 5) Read **1 Corinthians 15:9** and compare with **Acts 8:1-3**. How does the transformation of Saul to Paul give us confidence in our faith?
- 6) In our lesson we emphasized how the gospel is important because it is REAL and it REALLY MATTERS. What are some ways that you can show others this week that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is REAL and that it REALLY MATTERS to you?