

ENDINGS

2. Resurrection

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read 1 Corinthians 15

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Do something a little different this week – read 1 Corinthians 15, the whole chapter. It's the longest chapter in the New Testament so it's going to take a good chunk of time to read it all. Take it in turns but go for it. It's worth it.

- *Not earthly, not physical, not knowable.* Have you held any of these views on life after death? Where do we get these ideas from?
- v3-8. What difference does it make to our faith if we base our beliefs about life after death firmly on the resurrection of Jesus as historical event, witnessed by hundreds of people?
- v20. Paul says Jesus rose again as the 'firstfruits' of a future harvest. It's both a guarantee of what's to come and an example of what it will look like. What about Jesus' resurrection body and experience excites or intrigues you?
- v35-49. Life after death isn't a contrast between a physical existence and a spiritual existence. It's a contrast between a physical body powered by decaying, natural force (like a Conventional Submarine) and a physical body powered by spiritual, supernatural force (like a Nuclear Submarine). How does this idea of an immortal, glorious, spirit-powered body grab you? Have you thought in these terms before?
- v50 *'flesh and blood cannot inherit'*. How do we make sure that we are compatible with the spirit-powered future that God has for us?
- v58 *'give yourselves fully'*. How does understanding what God has in store for us motivate us to serve Him right now in the present?

Big Idea: 'Jesus' Resurrection means life after death is knowable, physical and earthly. Our ultimate future is connected to our present reality, and what we do in this life counts for eternity.'

Pray together in 2s and 3s for a greater revelation of our future hope. Pray that we are gripped with faith and excitement, not fear and worry. Pray for friends who don't yet know Jesus. Pray that we would be all motivated to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord because we know it all counts.