



Benefits of the Resurrection

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Focus When we believe in Jesus, everything changes. Jesus explains the Scripture to us, opens our eyes to the truth, and applies Scripture to our lives. He blesses us so we can be a witness for Him and build His kingdom.

Fun What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 24:25–27, 24:44–45

1. He explains.

After the resurrection, two of Jesus' disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus. While walking, Jesus joined them, but they didn't know it was Him. Along the way, Jesus went through Scripture, starting with the Old Testament, and showed the disciples all the passages that pointed to Him as the Messiah. When you believe in Jesus, He explains Scripture to you.

2. He opens.

Luke 24:45 tells us that Jesus opened the disciples' minds so they could comprehend the Scriptures. Jesus does this same thing for us today. He opens our minds to understand the Bible. If you read the Bible without knowing Jesus, you won't understand it correctly. For example, you may read the Old Testament and see only law, but if Jesus opens your mind to read it through the lens of grace, it changes everything. People who don't believe in Jesus have their minds veiled. We need to treat these people with love and compassion and pray that the Holy Spirit would open their minds.

3. He blesses.

Jesus blessed His disciples before He ascended into heaven. When we are blessed, God helps the timing and details of our lives to work together. We are

to use God's blessings to build His kingdom. We can stop the flow of God's blessings if we focus on building our own kingdom. Our focus should be on God's kingdom.

Group Dynamics Idea Reading through the Bible in a year is both challenging and empowering. Start an incentive to read through the Bible together as a group. Decide which plan you would like to use. For example, you may decide to read through the Bible chronologically, from Genesis to Revelation, or read from both the New and Old Testament while including a Psalm and a Proverb. Check out YouVersion's Bible App for more ideas.

Discuss

1. Did you grow up in a family where the Bible was read regularly? How did this impact you?
2. How comfortable are you with your ability to read and understand the Bible?
3. Read Luke 24:45. What do you think it means when it says that Jesus "opened their understanding," and whose understanding did Jesus open?
4. Have you ever had a Scripture stand out to you in a special way while reading the Bible? What was that experience like?
5. Pastor Robert mentioned that not only is Jesus the Word, but He will also teach us the Word. What do you think he meant by this?
6. Why is it important to base our decisions on what the Word says rather than our thoughts, opinions, and emotions?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus explains the Scripture to us.
- Jesus opens our eyes to the truth.
- Jesus blesses us so we can build His kingdom.

Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible. Help us to value it, study it, and allow it to change us. Help us to always come to You first and use the blessings You give us to build Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip If you've been dealing with shyness when it comes to inviting people to your group, one great place to start is to ask questions. Many people love having the opportunity to share more about themselves. After introducing yourself, you can start by asking where they are from and how long they've lived in the area. You can follow up by asking what they like

about their neighborhood or the work they do. Next, you might ask if they have a local church. If you are talking to them while at Gateway, ask if they have a small group. If they don't, then warmly invite them to yours. Be bold! Your voice matters!