

Matthew 28:1-15

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Give some of the reasons you personally believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

I know the Bible is true, and I believe what the Bible teaches. I have seen many Old Testament prophecies and Jesus’ prophecies fulfilled in the Bible and in history. I have seen the prayers of many people answered.

2. What is the most compelling reason you can think of for believing in the resurrection of Jesus from these verses in Matthew 28?

The number of witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection: two women saw the angel, the empty tomb, and Jesus. The angel and Jesus both told the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee where they would see Him alive. If He had not been raised from the dead, He could not have appeared to them or to His disciples in Galilee. If He had only been resuscitated, the women could not have seen Jesus as a completely healthy beautiful person. He could not have gone to Galilee to see the disciples without a lengthy rehabilitation.

3. What other reasons can you give for believing in the resurrection of Jesus, either from other parts of the Bible, the experience of others, or your own personal experience?

The disciples were difficult to convince, and they personally had to see Jesus to believe He had risen from the dead. The summary of some of Jesus' resurrection appearances in 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 shows He appeared to a great number of people at different times. Jesus answers prayers, so we know He is raised and seated at the right hand of God the Father.

4. The Bible, along with an old hymn, teach that Jesus lives within our hearts. What difference does Jesus make when He comes to live within our hearts?

Jesus helps us do what is right and He gives us wisdom and understanding beyond mere human knowledge and reasoning. Through the Holy Spirit, He helps us understand the Bible better when we study, and He helps us apply what we learn from the Bible. He cleanses us from sin, removes our guilt, and gives us assurance of His love as our Friend.

5. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important as part of the good news?

As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."