

# I Am Most Like Jesus When...

## Discussion Guide

Week of April 9 - **"I Come Back to Life"**

**Scripture verse: I Corinthians 15:1-11**

**LOOKING BACK:** Choose a group member (in advance) and ask him/her, "Will you pray for the Holy Spirit to give us clarity and understanding from His Word and a willingness in our hearts to receive His message."

Last week we talked about "dying to ourselves". We saw how Jesus literally died on a cross for us, taking on all our sin and the sin of every person who ever has or will walk this earth, so that He could have relationship with us. He calls us to live the same way. Go around the group and ask, "How did you die to yourself... at home... at work... in your neighborhood to bring glory to Jesus?"

**OPENING QUESTION:** Perhaps you were raised up in the church and had an easy relationship with God, or maybe it was written out of rebellion, or your family did not pursue religion? Ask the group to briefly (in not more than 2-3 sentences) tell their individual story. Explain what started your journey to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

**LOOKING UP:** The Great Commandment according to Scripture is found in **Deuteronomy 5:6** and spoken by Jesus in **Matthew 22:37**

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

He immediately followed that with the second greatest commandment:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Loving our neighbors (anyone with whom we have interaction, no matter how small) means caring enough about them to want them to share in eternity with Jesus, just as we wish for ourselves, our friends, and families.

Ask the group, “Have you ever shared God’s Story (also called the Gospel) or your own story of faith with others? How would you explain the Gospel to an unsaved person?”

Spend a minute and pray. Ask a different group member to pray, “Holy Spirit please teach us and equip us to be able to clearly share the gospel to others that are far from God but close to us.”

Ask someone to read tonight’s passage, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, aloud for the group.

**LEADER NOTE:** When you start asking the group each of these 4 questions below be sure repeat the question many times until group members do not have any more responses to the question. If there is not a lot of responses to the 1<sup>st</sup> question... don’t be afraid to wait in silence for someone to answer. Expect the Holy Spirit to move inside someone’s heart to share. Remember, the Holy Spirit is our teacher and you are the facilitator of the discussion.

**READ PASSAGE:**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

**RE-READ SAME PASSAGE:**

This time read in another bible translation. Then answer the last 2 questions.

**LOOKING FORWARD:**

The author of this book is Paul, whose journey began as a persecutor of Christians. You can read about Saul's conversion to Paul in **Acts chapter 9**. Though today we often consider Paul one of Jesus' greatest disciples, he never met Jesus until after the resurrection. Jesus gave him reason to change his heart and then changed his name accordingly, to represent his new life in Christ. From that point forward, Paul became a new man, with a new heart – one that only followed Jesus. Jesus calls us to a similar resurrection: to take off the trappings of our "old life", the life we lived before we came to know Him, and to put on a new life that reflects who we are in Christ. By His grace, there may be people in your life who no longer recognize you because you are a new creation with new characteristics, and a love for Christ.

Just as Paul did in the passage tonight, Jesus calls us to share His love with those around us, and sometimes that means we need to also be able to tell others of our resurrection in Christ ... who I was before is NOT who I am today! Praise God!

Today's scripture passage contained the whole gospel message. Have group members get in pairs together and practice sharing the simple gospel message.

(Gospel... Jesus died, according to the scriptures to take away our sin, he was buried, and he was resurrected from death according to the scriptures and he has promised: **if we believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead and acknowledge Him as our Lord—our ruler and King—we will be saved.**)

Who around you needs to hear this message. Pray for God to reveal who you should share this message. Ask the Lord to give you courage to obey and share.

