

Surprised by Hope Lenten study material 2010

Session two: The Hope of the Resurrection

Group discussion 45 minutes

Questions for group work

1. Initial reaction to what was said – surprises or points of strong agreement or disagreement.
2. Which of these events in Jesus' life is most important to us, and why? The nativity, the last supper, the crucifixion or the resurrection?
3. Do we feel the same way about the resurrection as Thomas did? If we do, should we feel guilty about it? If we do feel that way what should we do about it?
4. What do we think about Tom Wright's comments on the way we celebrate Easter? How do we show our community how important Easter is to us? Any creative ways of celebrating Easter?
5. The most common Christian logo is a cross, a symbol of execution. Can we think of a design for a Christian logo that celebrates resurrection?
6. How do we dialogue with a person who cannot believe in the resurrection?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15 vv 20-28 and 42-58. What does the passage say about our resurrection? What does it say about the sort of body we will have? Bearing in mind Paul is very hot on justification by faith, why do we think he says in v58 that our labour for the Lord is not in vain?
8. What do we say to the person who says Christians are just whistling in the dark with all this hope business, we are who we are and when we die we die, and that's it?
9. The vision of the new heaven and the new earth, with us being involved in them in our new flesh, contrasts greatly with the commonly held view that when we die our souls go to heaven to be with God in his glory and that is it. How do we feel about these two different visions?
10. If we are to be raised with new and incorruptible bodies, but still be recognisably ourselves, just as Jesus was, how do you think God is going to manage it?