

## **April 20/25 Small Groups - 1 Corinthians 15 “Christ: First-fruits of New Creation”**

1. The Jordan river flows from the fertile slopes of Mount Herman down to the salty grave of the dead sea proclaiming a truth we all know and yet wish it were not so – all of life leads to death. What aspects of that reality most grieve you as you reflect on your life? Our world?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 20-22a**

2. (22) In Adam all die. What were Adam’s actions and what implications continue to impact the human race?

### **Read Ezekiel 47:1-12**

3. Ezekiel has a vision of a new river flowing through Israel. What is its source? What is its impact?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:22b-26; 50-58**

4. In an agrarian society they would hold their wealth in seed. At planting time they would literally plow all of their wealth, all of their hope into the ground. With that first ear of corn, first grain, first fruit it was a time of great joy and feasting for it was the first taste of an actual future, the guarantee of more to come. What do you think Paul is meaning by calling Jesus’ resurrection the first fruits?
5. In Christ we will all be made alive. The greeks had two words for life: bios and zoe. Bios is where we get our world biology, biological life. All of us have bios but not all of us have zoe – the life of God, the life his spirit, the life of his future kingdom breaking into the present. What impact does this risen life of Jesus have on us as we receive it by faith now?
6. (23) Upon his coming the dead in Christ will be raised. The Corinthians had asked Paul ‘with what kind of body will I be raised?’ How would you answer that question?
7. (24) Then at the end he will deliver the kingdom after destroying every rule and every authority, and every power – meaning that everything that mars God’s good creation had been done away with. Imagine together what such a future might look like.
8. (vs. 58) What kind of life does Paul invite us into in light of the truth and reality of the resurrection of Jesus and its wide reaching implications?
9. In what ways was Ezekiel’s vision a foreshadowing of Jesus’ resurrection and its implications? What does his image invite us to do? and how might we do that?