



The Story @ Home + Youth #2-36 + 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

## Death, the Last Enemy

### Unit 11: The Power of God's Love

## LAST WEEK

Paul wrote listed the characteristics of true love, God's way (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).

## THIS WEEK

Paul teaches that Christ's resurrection assures us that he has power and victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57).

### Story Summary

As Paul winds down his first letter to the Corinthians, he helps them face the reality of death. He shows them that Christ's resurrection from the dead is important in the present and the future. Christ's defeat of death is an essential part of the gospel Paul longs for them to live into more fully. He starts by reminding them that Jesus was raised from death. Paul tells them that Jesus' resurrection means something real: the defeat of death. It shows that Jesus is who he says he is, the Son of God and the deliverer the people of God had long expected. His rising to life introduced a new way of life, the kingdom, and a life we can begin to live in now and will one day live even more fully.

### Practice Fellowship

Those we fellowship with in God's kingdom today we will live with forever in God's eternal kingdom. Who in the Body of Christ can you celebrate life with this week? Call that person and count your blessings together.

### The Point

We can rejoice since the risen Christ will destroy death forever.

### Bible Nuts & Bolts: *The New Beginning*

Jesus' resurrection was a sign of the new beginning. Bible scholar N.T. Wright describes it this way: It was "the moment when the one true God appointed the man through whom the whole cosmos would be brought back into its proper order." With his resurrection, Jesus' reign has begun, but it is not yet complete. This is why we pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done" when we pray the Lord's Prayer. One day God will restore everything—death will be defeated forever and we will live in a restored and remade world. The Scriptures give us wonderful glimpses of that ultimate reality, such as today's passage and in other places in both the Old and New Testaments. Look up Isaiah 2:1-4 and Revelation 21:3-5 for more pictures God has given us of the new creation.

## NEXT WEEK

The Spirit gives each of us gifts so that, together, we can be a complete body of Christ (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13).

## Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- † Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- † Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- † Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- † End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

*Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!*

## Daily Bible Readings

### Sunday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Death, the last enemy, is destroyed by Jesus.

- What do you look forward to most about Jesus' return?
- Do you feel hope or fear about the thought of death?

### Monday—Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-9

Taking a collection for the saints.

- Who can you set aside material goods or money to support in ministry?
- Is there a church in an impoverished area that you or your youth group can help?

### Tuesday—Read 1 Corinthians 16:10-14

Timothy and Apollos do the work of the Lord.

- What can you do to help new people feel comfortable in your youth group?
- When have you stood firm in your faith?

### Wednesday—

#### Read 1 Corinthians 16:15-24

Paul shares some final greetings.

- How does it feel when someone lets you know another person says hello?
- Who refreshes your spirit?

### Thursday—Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

- When have you been comforted?
- How can you pass along the comfort you have received to someone who needs comfort?

### Friday—Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-14

Paul experiences challenging times.

- How can you keep hope amidst struggles?
- For what do you rely fully on God?

### Saturday—Read Acts 2:1-4

The Spirit comes at Pentecost.

- Who has shared the good news of Jesus with you?
- Who can you, through the power of the Spirit, tell about Jesus?