



## From Good to Better to Best Bible Study

**[Please provide:** Bibles, copies of this Bible study for attendees]

In this Bible study we will focus on Jesus' resurrection and on the importance of living and sharing Jesus' Easter victory based on the theme verse 1 Corinthians 15:57: *But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Holy Trinity, We praise You and thank You for Jesus' resurrection which gives us the victory over sin, death, and the devil. Thank You for giving us the desire and privilege to live and share the Easter victory in our daily lives. Please guide us through this Bible study and help us gain a greater understanding and appreciation of Jesus' death and resurrection. In the Name of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.

### Good

Before Jesus could rise on Easter morning, He had to suffer and die on the cross on what has come to be known as GOOD Friday. The suffering and death Jesus endured was certainly not "good" for Him. But it is certainly good for us. Read the following Bible passages and describe the good things that came out of this tragic event.

Luke 23:33–34: \_\_\_\_\_

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Luke 23:39–43: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 27:54 and Luke 23:47: \_\_\_\_\_

John 19:28–30 (also refer to Matthew 5:17.): \_\_\_\_\_

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John 19:35: \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 3:10, 13–14: \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 5:8–10: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 2:14–15: \_\_\_\_\_

## Better

Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter morning was certainly BETTER than the gruesome torture of His crucifixion on GOOD Friday. Imagine how much BETTER the followers of Jesus felt when they learned that He was alive! Work together as a group and fill in the blanks below with the following words: cross, grave, victories, resurrection, accomplished, risen, worthless

Although Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ many \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, they would have been \_\_\_\_\_ if He had not \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, you could say His \_\_\_\_\_ "sealed the deal!"

Read the following verses and explain how they support the previous statement as well as reinforce the significance that Jesus not only died but rose again.

Romans 10:9: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-22: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread 1 Corinthians 15:57 (this study's theme verse) found on page 1. The victory mentioned in this verse is "[the] victory over the condemnation for sin that the law brought and over death and the grave through the death and resurrection of Christ" (*Concordia NIV Self Study Bible*, ©1985, p.1770).

In the following Bible passages, identify what else is BETTER now, or what does a BETTER life consist of because of Jesus' resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:58: (Keep in mind that this verse comes directly after the theme verse about the resurrection victory.) How does Jesus' resurrection impact our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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Colossians 2:12-14: \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:1-2: \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:12-17: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 6:4-14. Walking in newness of life means our lives are now free from the guilt of sin (*The Lutheran Study Bible*, ©2009, study note on v. 4, p.1919). List three truths that state how our lives are BETTER because of Jesus' resurrection. \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Romans 7:4-6. How is our service to God BETTER because of Jesus' resurrection?

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 13:20–21. In Hebrews 13:20, the author uses the phrase “eternal covenant.” That is the new and BETTER covenant ushered in by Jesus’ resurrection. His death marked the end of the old covenant primarily based on the Law. This new covenant is a covenant of grace—the undeserved gift of forgiveness and the assurance of salvation and eternal life in heaven to all who believe in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus established a new and BETTER covenant with all who believe in Him.

### **Best**

The BEST is yet to come for us because of Jesus’ death and resurrection!

Read Ephesians 2:1–8. Because of God’s grace, where will all believers sit someday? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read John 14:1–4. What is Jesus doing for us? \_\_\_\_\_

Reread verse 3b. In this verse, what does Jesus promise all believers? \_\_\_\_\_

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When Jesus returns to the world, some of the very BEST things will happen to those who believe in Him. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17 to find out more about Jesus’ second coming.

When Jesus returns, who will be raised first? \_\_\_\_\_

At the time of Jesus’ return, what will happen to the living? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do each of these Bible passages say about the BEST victory that is still to come for those who trust in Jesus?

1 Peter 1:3–5: \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:4: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:28: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 6:14: \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:40: \_\_\_\_\_

Sadly, not everyone will experience the BEST that Christians will in eternity. Jesus’ Second Coming will also be Judgment Day. The dead who are NOT in Christ will be raised but will spend eternity in hell as well as those still alive on the last day who do not know Christ—they will NOT meet the Lord in the air or live with Him in heaven.

The Easter message and the Gospel message are basically one and the same—that God loved us so much He sent His Son to die and rise again for our sins and that forgiveness and eternal life are free gifts to those who believe. In 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 Paul writes, *Now I would remind*

*you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. The Easter and Gospel message are of first importance. By the power of the Holy Spirit, as we acknowledge the truths the Bible shares concerning Jesus' second coming, why is it so important that we share the Gospel message in every way possible?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**Closing Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to make heaven a reality for us! Dear Jesus, thank You for obeying Your Father's will by dying for our sins and rising again to grant us salvation. Thank You for making heaven a reality for us! Dear Holy Spirit, thank You for walking with us daily as You work in us to spread the Good News and lead us to live and share Jesus' resurrection victory with everyone. Thank You, Holy Trinity, for victoriously leading us from the GOOD, to the BETTER, and finally to the BEST! In the Name of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.

From Good to Better to Best  
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