



12 / 02 / 2012 // GROUP DISCUSSION FROM THE CURRENT TEACHING SERIES ... HEADLINES

## START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to answer this question:

What was the most embarrassing or awkward thing that has ever happened to you?

## SHARE

We are in the series called "Headlines," in which we are looking at some amazing stories from God's word. These stories are amazing because they actually happened, and if we were alive in those days, these stories would have made some big headlines in the local paper. We have all read the paper and wondered why things happened the way they did. This week we will be focusing on the resurrection of Jesus account found in scripture. Take turns reading the actual account found in Luke 23:26-56, Luke 24:1-45.

When Jesus was on the cross, what reactions did the people around him have?

How did Jesus react to the insults and mocking during his crucifixion?

What is symbolic about the weather going dark and the temple curtain being torn in two?

How can you relate to the men on the road to Emmaus?

After reading this account, what is one thing that stands out to you most?

## GROW

Throughout the message, Lee Strobel talked about his long and painful journey from angry atheist to joy-filled follower of Jesus. Throughout his journey, Lee spoke about how he studied and vetted the scriptures, asking the tough questions about Jesus' resurrection. Let's camp on the scripture Lee spoke about and its significance for each of our lives:

### 1 Corinthians 15:17

**If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.**

What is your reaction to this verse?

Why is it important to a follower of Jesus Christ?

Lee camped on four crucial areas that we need to confront in relation to Jesus' resurrection which are his execution, early accounts, empty tomb and eye witnesses. As it relates to the execution, even atheist scholars would agree that Jesus did not survive the execution:

**"Jesus' death as a consequence of crucifixion is indisputable." -- Gerd Lüdemann, Atheist Scholar**

Why is the fact that Jesus died during the crucifixion process important?





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During the message, Lee Strobel talked in-depth regarding the big misconception that the church made up a series of stories years after the fact, regarding Jesus resurrection. In fact, most historians would agree that these early accounts were validated by hundreds of eyewitnesses and became tradition within months of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus; all pointing to the validity of the empty tomb:

**“This tradition, we can be entirely confident, was formulated as tradition within months of Jesus’ death.”**

**- James D.G. Dunn, Historian**

How were you personally challenged by the message? Were you challenged by the scripture and evidence presented or by Lee’s personal faith journey?

Was your faith strengthened by the message and the historical accounts or did it actually bring up more questions for you? Why?

## MOVE

God has a plan for each and every person’s life, but we need to be willing to humbly bow a knee, admit our sin and ask to receive God’s forgiveness. Lee’s personal story of God’s patience and pursuit of his life was compelling and should give hope to any one of us that struggle with feeling that we are beyond redemption. Let’s look at the verse he ended the message with:

**John 1:12 (NASB)**

**“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name.”**

Lee talked about the formula “Believe + Receive = Become” and the impact that had on his life when he realized he actually believed in the accounts of Jesus. What stood out to you about his story?

What did this message inspire you to do? Are there areas of your life you want to get more serious with God about?

Take up Lee Strobel’s challenge this week, grab some coffee and visit his website that has hundreds of free resources to those looking for answers. Maybe send some articles or videos from his website to friends you know who have questions about their faith:

## PRAY

Let’s put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other.

<http://www.leestrobel.com>