

## December 5 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

### *Unshakable Hope: Chapter 10: This Temporary Tomb*

***The promise is that death has been swallowed up in victory. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. In Christ all will be made alive. How does this give you hope not only for future glory but for today?***

The promise given to us by the prophet Isaiah to which the Apostle Paul makes claim is that God has swallowed up death in victory forever (*Isaiah 25:8, Corinthians 15:54*). We as people of the Promise hold onto the Unshakable Hope that Jesus Christ died a physical death, vacated an actual grave, and ascended into heaven where He at this moment reigns as head of the church. Our resurrection stands or falls with Christ's resurrection as Paul states, "if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised" (1 Corinthians 15:13). Apart from Christ's bodily resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life.

The bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the most important event in history, providing irrefutable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The resurrection validated the Scriptures, which foretold His coming and resurrection and authenticated Christ's claims that He would be raised on the third day (*John 2:19-21, Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34*).

Scripture assures us of the bodily resurrection of Christ in all of the stories of his appearances that brought belief to those who experienced His Glory and for us even today. "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God" (*Acts 1:3*).

We are told that Mary Magdalene was the first to see the resurrected Jesus (*John 20:11-18*). Distraught in the missing body of Jesus at the tomb, Jesus appears to Mary. Although seeing the risen Lord, she only recognized that it was Him after He called her name. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27)*.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus joined into the conversation of two men who had experienced the previous events in Jerusalem, including the report of Jesus' missing body from the tomb and the vision of angels to the women, stating that He was alive (*Luke 24:13-32*). However, the men did not recognize Him or believe that indeed He had risen until Jesus broke bread with them, after reminding them of the foretelling of the crucifixion and resurrection in Scriptures. "Were not our hearts burning within us?".

On the same day, as the two men from Emmaus began to tell their story to the apostles, Jesus appeared (*Luke 24:33-49*). They were terrified and thought He was a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Look at my hands and feet and side and touch me." The apostles only believed after Jesus ate a piece of fish and opened their minds to the Scriptures and all that He had shared with them. "You are witnesses to these things."

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them and didn't believe it. He stated that he wouldn't believe it unless he saw the nail wounds in His hands and wound in His side. Eight days later, Jesus appeared to Thomas and the disciples. Jesus said to him, "Put your fingers here on the wounds in my hands and touch the wound here in my side." Only then did Thomas believe. "My Lord and my God!" (*John 20:24-29*)

A few days later Jesus appeared to seven of His disciples beside the Sea of Galilee—Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, the two sons of Zebedee, and two others (*John 21:1-25*). After fishing all night but with no catch, Jesus appeared on the shore but they did not recognize Him. Jesus told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, which resulted in a huge catch. It was only then did they recognize Jesus. Jesus shared breakfast with them and after they ate, Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” for each time for when Peter denied Christ - no condemnation but a love for Peter and a fulfillment of his call to be the rock of His Church.

Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. There Jesus commissioned them to “go and make disciples of all nations.” (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

Even with the recorded resurrection appearances, some in the Corinthian church struggled with the bodily resurrection, especially for themselves. The Apostle Paul provided answers to the many questions in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul assures us that our resurrection will follow that of Christ: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming (*1 Corinthians 15:20,23*). He writes that our natural body sown perishable, in dishonor, and in weakness will be, in resurrection, an imperishable spiritual body that is raised in glory and power. We are told that “for as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive” (*1 Corinthians 15:22*). We can be assured that our resurrected body will be made perfect for worshiping in God’s glory forever!

“When we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord” (*2 Corinthians 5:8*). This is our hope for tomorrow, but it can bring strength to us today. Lucado states that our finest moment will be our final moment! We have a promise from our living God that our death will be swallowed up in victory.

A song to reflect and pray on:

[I Can Only Imagine by MercyMe - YouTube](#)

## Looking ahead – Sunday December 12

Chapter 11 – Joy Is Soon Coming

God's Promise

Psalm 30:5

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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