

The Resurrection of Jesus

Chapter 16 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore the events surrounding Jesus' Resurrection.
- The participants will examine ways the Resurrection is a source of hope for all people.
- The participants will reflect on Jesus' Ascension and how they can witness to and participate in Jesus' kingly mission in their own lives.

Content Summary

1. The Resurrection of Jesus on the Sunday after Good Friday is a key fact of our faith. It is God's greatest miracle and enables us to understand our faith and to live it rightly.
2. The disciples of Jesus did not expect Jesus to die such a horrible death; neither did they expect Jesus to rise victoriously from the dead. Only after they had seen Jesus with their own eyes did they believe such an amazing reality.
3. In his Resurrection, the body and soul of Jesus are reunited. His body is still human, showing the scars of his suffering and death. But it is now glorified with divine life.
4. We begin to share in the death and Resurrection of Jesus when we are baptized. We are united with God and become his children, the brothers and sisters of his Son, Jesus Christ. In and through Jesus, we too will be resurrected.
5. For forty days after his Resurrection, Jesus completes his teaching. He gives his Apostles and disciples instructions. Then, on the fortieth day after Easter, he returns to his Father. This return is called the Ascension into Heaven.
6. In Jesus, humanity enters Heaven. Jesus sits at God's right hand—the symbol of power—and fully shares in the power of God.
7. As followers of Jesus, we continue his mission of announcing his Kingdom of love and helping to hasten its coming upon earth.
8. Before his return to Heaven, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to us to guide and strengthen us.
9. Jesus will come again in glory at the end of time to reveal himself to the entire world. At this time, at the Last Judgment, Jesus will judge the living and the dead. Knowing each person, Jesus will judge each of us fairly.
10. Jesus will come first of all to save us, to bring us with him into God's Kingdom—as long as we do not reject him. This is a decision we make each day, as we keep trying to grow in the Spirit, in love and compassion.

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