

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

## TAKING IT HOME

1. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love and grace! It sets us free from rules and regulations, and instead brings freedom to live and trust God! As you reflect on your own life, in what ways have you tried to "behave your way" into God's family? How did those ways fall short and leave you wanting?

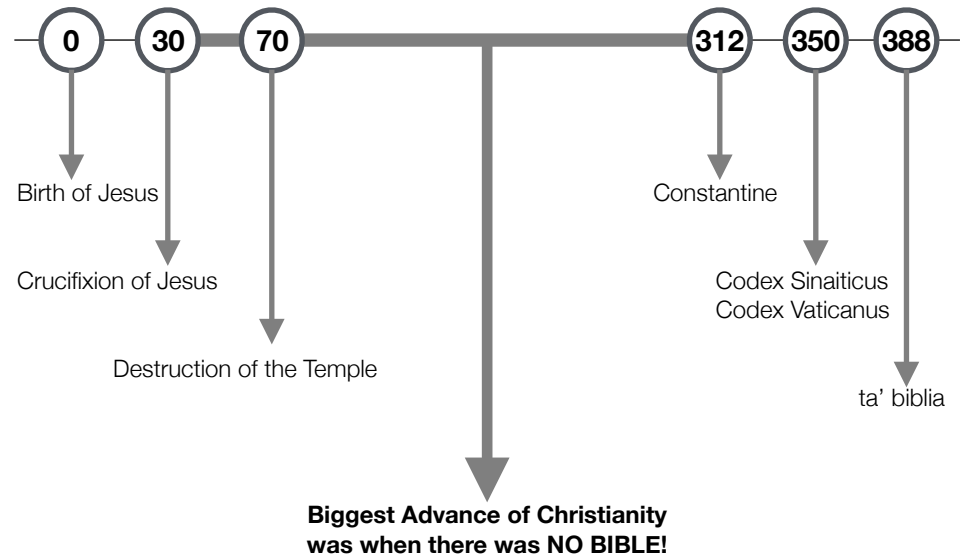
2. Read ***Ephesians 1:9-10 and Titus 2:11-13***. What do these verses tell us about what God ultimately plans for those who have new life in him? How does knowing that affect the way that you live day to day?

3. Our "verse to remember" this week reveals that when we start following Jesus, we become a brand new person! If you've started following Jesus because of his grace and look forward to the hope of eternity with Jesus - have you followed Jesus example in water baptism? If not, what barriers are keeping you from doing that?

4. What might God be asking you to do with this message?

# MESSAGE NOTES

## Asking For A Friend // Week 1



1. The foundation of Christianity is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. **1 Corinthians 15:3-9***

*And if Christ has never been raised, then the message we tell is worth nothing. And your faith is worth nothing. **1 Corinthians 15:14***

*And if Christ has not been raised from death, then your faith is for nothing; you are still guilty of your sins. **1 Corinthians 15:17***

*If our hope in Christ is only for this life here on earth, then people should feel more sorry for us than for anyone else. **1 Corinthians 15:19***

*If we are not raised from death, "Let us eat and drink, because tomorrow we die."  
**1 Corinthians 15:32***

*So, my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Don't let anything change you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord. You know that your work in the Lord is never wasted. **1 Corinthians 15:58***

## MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ into God's family!

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

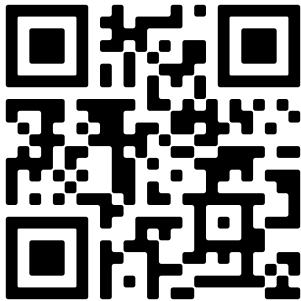
*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. **2 Corinthians 5:17***

*But God is rich in mercy, and he loved us very much. We were spiritually dead because of all we had done against him. But he gave us new life together with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace. Yes, it is because we are a part of Christ Jesus that God raised us from death and seated us together with him in the heavenly places. God did this so that his kindness to us who belong to Christ Jesus would clearly show for all time to come the amazing richness of his grace. **Ephesians 2:4-7***

3. Water baptism is an external \_\_\_\_\_ of new life!

*Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. **Romans 6:3-4***

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“Be doers of the word and not hearers...” *James 1:22*



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS**. Bring it with you to Home Church as you discuss how this applies to your life!

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Looking back at this week's talk, was there anything that particularly stood out to you, challenged you, or inspired you?

2. As you think about the spread of Christianity before the Bible was complete, what does it tell you about the followers of Jesus in the first 3 centuries?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend's talk highlighted the idea that baptism is an external symbol of our faith. Read **Acts 8:26-38**.

In this story, Philip baptized someone after they first came to faith in Jesus. Does anything stand out to you about this story? Any questions come to mind?

2. The apostle Paul wrote not only about the TEACHINGS of Jesus - but also about the RESURRECTION of Jesus! The resurrection of Jesus shows us that there is more to this life than this life! Read what Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 15:53-57**.

What hope do you find in these verses?