



APRIL 2011 TEACHING PLANS

TO THE CHURCH AT _____ : LOSE YOURSELF

BY SHARON HODDE MILLER

Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon are three of Paul’s four famous Prison Epistles. He wrote these letters while imprisoned in Rome, awaiting his eventual execution.

Filled with inspiring passion and conviction, these letters barely mention his grim circumstances. In years prior, he’d been arrested in Jerusalem, then tossed around the Roman judicial system until he was finally sent to Rome.

Picturing Paul writing these letters from prison may conjure up images like the Pit of Despair from *The Princess Bride* — dark, damp, and walled with torture devices. But Paul’s imprisonment simply kept him under house arrest, so he had a remarkable amount of freedom. Like today’s prisoners under house arrest, Paul also had his own version of an ankle bracelet: a prison guard bound to his hand at all times.

For most people, the constant presence of a Roman guard would’ve been discouraging. However, Paul saw his imprisonment as a new kind of mission — sharing the gospel with each guard who cycled through his house. He also took advantage of his freedom to write letters and receive visitors.

As you read these letters, consider Paul’s mind-set. At the end of his life, he’s asking new church congregations to carry on his legacy of faithfulness with the same passion and commitment he displayed. God desires the same of you.

As you consider the legacy you’ll leave on your college campus, as well as God’s call for your future, what will it be? Will it be defined by mediocrity or by full surrender to God in radical acts of obedience? (And

check your heart: Is it set on bringing God or you glory through those radical acts?) To live that life of surrender, dwell on Paul’s keys to living the gospel in complete abandon to Christ.

WHAT’S INSIDE ...

The goal of the *Collegiate* online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here’s a breakdown of what’s inside: “Getting Started” helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. “Need-to-Knows” provide the lesson overview and key verses of each lesson. “Explore the Bible” leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. “Apply to Life” gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they’re learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also use the commentary provided (threadsmedia.com/collegiate) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons.

As always, we’re here for you. Please send us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and ministry.

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THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 36-37 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* SPRING ISSUE
- THE SONG "MADE FOR MORE" BY LINCOLN BREWSTER FROM THE ALBUM *REAL LIFE*

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about Paul's admonition for the Philippians to live as those who hold heavenly citizenship. The emphasis is on spreading the gospel by working toward goals that reflect the reality of heaven. The lesson encourages college students to follow the highest possible goals for their lives.

FOCAL PASSAGES

PHILIPPIANS 3:1,7-11,12-16,17-21



THE SECRET OF PAUL'S SUCCESS

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Made for More" by Lincoln Brewster playing as students arrive.

A 2009 Gallup Poll found that between 2008 and 2009, the number of Americans who reported they were happy and experiencing joy dropped from 48.2 to 47.4 percent. At the same time, Americans reported an increase in stress levels.¹

- There's a clear connection between the decline in Americans' happiness and the economic recession. Do you think college students have been similarly affected by the economy? If yes, how so?
- What are some other factors that hinder the joy of college students?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 36 in the Spring 2011 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a few challenging thoughts, life application questions, and correlating Scriptures that relate to the lesson topic.

¹"Americans Less Happy, More Stressed," January 1, 2010, gallup.com.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 36 of *Collegiate's* Spring 2011 issue.

1) COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:1,7-11.

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a protection for you.

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Have someone read “Count All Things Loss” on page 36 of *Collegiate*.

In his book, *Prodigal God*, Tim Keller offers a helpful perspective on Philippians 3:7-9:

“To truly become Christian we must also repent of the reasons we ever did anything right. Pharisees only repent of their sins, but Christians repent for the very roots of their righteousness, too. We must learn how to repent of the sin *under* all our other sins *and* under all our righteousness — the sin of seeking to be our own Savior and Lord ... It is only when you see the desire to be your own Savior and Lord — lying beneath both your sins *and* your moral goodness — that you are on the verge

of understanding the gospel and becoming a Christian indeed.”¹

- After reading this passage, how might you interpret Paul’s words “But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss” (v. 7)?
- In our society, the causes of unhappiness are usually traced back to hard circumstances or terrible mistakes. How can our accomplishments and good deeds also stand in the way of our joy?

2) NEVER LOOK BACK

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16.

¹² Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. ¹⁶ In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained.

Have someone read “Never Look Back” on page 36 of *Collegiate*.

As you discuss the pitfalls of looking back, spend some time examining the ultimate woman who looked back: Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:1-26).

- As her punishment for looking back, Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt. Do you think this punishment was too harsh? Why or why not?

¹Tim Keller, *Prodigal God* (New York: Penguin Group, Inc., 2008), p. 78.

- Consider the lifestyles and practices of the people living in Sodom and Gomorrah. As Lot’s wife looked back, what might she have been missing?
- Lot’s wife looked back at her destructive lifestyle and yearned for it. Why might we miss the risky and destructive behaviors of our past, even though we now have Christ?
- How does looking backward paralyze us from moving forward?

3) DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21.

¹⁷ Join in imitating me, brothers, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things, ²⁰ but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

Have someone read “Don’t Get Too Comfortable” on pages 36-37 of *Collegiate*.

In verse 19, Paul described the characteristics of one who’s exceedingly comfortable in the worldly culture. One at a time, discuss the ways college students (both Christian and non-Christian) fit these descriptions below, and how each one can ultimately short-circuit joy:

- Their god is their belly.
- They glory in their shame.
- Their minds are set on earthly things.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 38-39 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* SPRING ISSUE
- THE SONG "NO MATTER WHAT" BY KERRIE ROBERTS FROM THE ALBUM *KERRIE ROBERTS*
- SEVERAL PENS AND SHEETS OF PAPER FOR THE "APPLY TO LIFE" ACTIVITY

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about standing firm in the Lord. The emphasis is on spreading the gospel by consistent Christian behavior. The lesson encourages college students to be consistently Christian in their behavior.

FOCAL PASSAGES

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-7,8-9,11-13,15-19



CENTER YOUR LIFE ON THE GOSPEL

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "No Matter What" by Kerrie Roberts playing as students arrive.

One of the most common reasons college students don't make time for church or campus ministries is a lack of time. Classes can become overwhelming, and schoolwork piles up. As a result, faith often takes a backseat to more pressing matters.

Ironically, college is a season in life when people generally have the most time and freedom. Of course there are exceptions, but schedules usually get more and more packed with the arrival of graduation, a full-time job, and sometimes even marriage and kids.

Given this reality, ask your group to spend some time discussing why college students offer this excuse so regularly. What's the real reason behind the excuse?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 38 in the Spring 2011 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a thought-provoking quote and an in-depth biblical fact that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 38 of *Collegiate's* Spring 2011 issue.

1) WHEN SECOND THINGS ARE FIRST

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:1-7.

¹ So then, my brothers, you are dearly loved and longed for—my joy and crown. In this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Have someone read “When Second Things Are First” on page 38 of *Collegiate*.

Euodia and Syntyche were godly Christian women who were good friends with Paul. These women had vision and perseverance. However, some competing priorities crept in amidst their devotion to Christ. Even though their intentions were probably noble, they were misplaced just enough to cause great problems.

- What are some ways that our good, Christian commitments get in the way of our commitment to Christ?
- How can we discern between good commitments and “God” commitments?

2) WHEN FIRST THINGS ARE FIRST

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9.

⁸ Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things. ⁹ Do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Have someone read “When First Things Are First” on page 38 of *Collegiate*.

Within these verses, Paul draws a connection between our priorities and our thought lives. One of the ways we guard Christ's centrality in our lives is simply by thinking about Him and His attributes.

- How does your “thought life” — what you spend the most time thinking about — shape your priorities? (Ask for specific examples.)

ALSO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5.

⁵ and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ.

- What do you think it means to take every thought “captive” and make it obedient to Christ?
- What types of thoughts might this verse apply to?

Your mind is usually the first place sin and temptation take root. That's why Jesus warned not only against murder, but anger. He warned not only against adultery, but lust. According to human nature, our bodies follow the direction of our thought lives. By indulging lustful thoughts, fears, or insecurities, we're one step closer to acting on them in unhealthy, ungodly ways. But when we take those thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ, our lives are sure to reflect our focus.

3) SEARCH FOR CONTENTMENT

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13.

¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³ I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Have someone read “Search for Contentment” on pages 38-39 of *Collegiate*.

- What is the specific context of verse 13?
- Do you think this is the kind of verse Paul would've expected Christians to put on bumper stickers or stationery? Why or why not?
- In your everyday life, how can you live out verse 13? (Name some examples.)

4) THE TRIUMPH OF FIRST THINGS

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:15-19.

¹⁵ And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account. ¹⁸ But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Have someone read “The Triumph of First Things” on page 39 of *Collegiate*.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 40-41 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* SPRING ISSUE
- THE SONG "HOLDING NOTHING BACK" BY JESUS CULTURE FROM THE ALBUM *CONSUMED*
- A DRY ERASE BOARD, CHALK BOARD, OR LARGE SHEET OF PAPER WITH WRITING UTENSIL FOR THE "APPLY TO LIFE" ACTIVITY

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the truth of the gospel being summed up in Jesus' identity. The emphasis is on truths about Jesus Christ in relationship to God, creation, the church, and redemption. The lesson encourages college students to demonstrate their grasp of significant truths about Jesus.

FOCAL PASSAGES

COLOSSIANS 1:3-8,9-14,15-17,18-20



BECAUSE YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

GETTING STARTED

Before becoming the famous leader of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther was a German monk. He spent every day laboring to serve God and be a righteous man, and he was absolutely miserable.

Luther's spirit was crushed by a wrong understanding of Christian discipleship. He thought God was standing over him, judging him as he sought to live a righteous life. He felt as though nothing was ever good enough. But one day he stumbled upon Romans 1:17, which says about the gospel, "For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith."

These words from Scripture opened Luther's eyes to a new way of seeing God.

Luther discovered the power of faith. It unlocked in him a passion so powerful that he helped change the entire face of the Christian church. Faith completely changed Luther's relationship with God and the joy he had in life. As a result, he later affirmed one of the foundational principles of Christianity is faith alone.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 40 in the Spring 2011 issue of *Collegiate* for an eye-opening statistic and suggested video clip that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 40 of *Collegiate's* Spring 2011 issue.

1) FAITH FOR SALVATION

READ COLOSSIANS 1:3-8.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints ⁵ because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the message of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and recognized God's grace in the truth. ⁷ You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow slave. He is a faithful servant of the Messiah on your behalf, ⁸ and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.

Have someone read "Faith for Salvation" on page 40 of *Collegiate*.

- Why is faith so difficult to maintain? What causes us to lose faith?
- How can doubt strengthen or weaken one's faith?
- Is faith something we can do, or does it have to spring out of us naturally?

In verses 4-5, Paul described the Colossians as having a faith that results from "the hope reserved for you in heaven."

- Why does Christian hope produce faith?
- How can Paul's words guide us in times of doubt?

2) FAITH FOR EACH DAY

READ COLOSSIANS 1:9-14.

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that

you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. ¹⁴ We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.

Have someone read "Faith for Each Day" on page 40 of *Collegiate*.

In verses 9-13, Paul listed a series of characteristics and behaviors that mark the Christian life. As you read these, it's easy to slip into a mind-set of "doing." Human nature tempts us to believe we must accomplish each item with our own effort and determination.

One at a time, consider each of the following items from Paul's list. Ask the students how faith (not works or human effort) is the driving force behind each one listed below. How does faith make each one possible and authentic?

- "Be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (v. 9)
- "Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him" (v. 10)
- "Bearing fruit in every good work" (v. 10)
- "Be strengthened with all power" (v. 11)
- "Giving thanks to the Father" (v. 12)

3) FAITH IN A PERSONAL GOD

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-17.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through

Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.

Have someone read "Faith in a Personal God" on pages 40-41 of *Collegiate*.

Verses 15-20 constitute a beautiful, ancient hymn of praise, attesting to the majesty and divinity of Christ. The hymn begins by describing Christ as "the image of the invisible God," one of the doctrines of the Christian faith that make it strikingly unique from other religions.

- Why does it matter that God became man in the Person of Jesus?
- The bulk of this hymn attests to Jesus' divinity. Why does it matter that Jesus was God?
- Can you still call yourself a Christian if you only believe that Jesus was a man, but not God? Why or why not?

4) FAITH IN CHRIST

READ COLOSSIANS 1:18-20.

¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross—whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Have someone read "Faith in Christ" on page 41 of *Collegiate*.

In verse 18, notice how many times Paul used the word "first" in reference to Christ.

- Why do you think Paul felt the need to hammer home this imagery of "first-ness"?
- How does the priority of Christ in our lives sustain Christian unity?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 42-43 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* SPRING ISSUE
- THE SONG "FOREVER REIGN" BY ONE SONIC SOCIETY FROM THE ALBUM *ONE EP*
- ONE SET OF THE GAME "JENGA" FOR THE "GETTING STARTED" ACTIVITY
- PENS AND PAPER FOR CLASS MEMBERS TO USE IN THE OPTION 1 "APPLY TO LIFE" ACTIVITY

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the resurrection of Jesus. The lesson encourages college students to tell others about their belief in Jesus' resurrection.

FOCAL PASSAGES

JOHN 20:1-18



WHY CARE ABOUT THE RESURRECTION?

GETTING STARTED

At the beginning of your session, ask two students to volunteer and come to the front. At the front, you should have assembled a game of Jenga. For the next five minutes, ask the two volunteers to play the game as the class watches.

As the game progresses, the structure will look more and more wobbly, but it will take some time before it actually falls. Once the structure tumbles over, ask a student to read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:12-14:

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without foundation, and so is your faith.

Explain the activity as follows:

As the students witnessed during the Jenga game, there are some Christian beliefs that, if removed, make our faith a lot less sturdy than it was before. However, our belief in the resurrection is like the last piece that was taken out of the Jenga tower and caused it to collapse. As Paul said in the verse above, if the resurrection didn't happen, then our faith has no foundation.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 42 in the Spring 2011 issue of *Collegiate* for some additional facts and a recommended read that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 42 of *Collegiate's* Spring 2011 issue.

1) DOUBTING THE RESURRECTION

READ JOHN 20:1-2.

¹ On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!"

Have someone read "Doubting the Resurrection" on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

One of the key doctrines that opponents of Christianity attack is the historicity of the resurrection. In the face of these accusations, it's easy to get defensive and respond to the critiques in a condescending manner. However, this method has proven to be largely ineffective. It builds even greater walls than there were before. Ask students to discuss the following questions as they put themselves in the shoes of these "doubters."

- Do you think some people genuinely struggle to believe the resurrection? What makes the resurrection so difficult to swallow?
- How can we be sensitive, yet helpful, to people who are wrestling with this question?

2) UNDERSTANDING THE RESURRECTION

READ JOHN 20:3-7.

³ At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. ⁵ Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then, following him, Simon Peter

came also. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself.

Have someone read "Understanding the Resurrection" on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

- What aspects of the resurrection do you find to be most confusing?
- If there are parts of the resurrection that are confusing to you, it's likely that they're confusing to non-Christians as well. How should we respond when someone asks us a question about the resurrection that we don't understand?
- How might your personal testimony be an important part of that conversation?

3) BELIEVING THE RESURRECTION

READ JOHN 20:8-9,14-16.

⁸ The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then entered the tomb, saw, and believed. ⁹ For they still did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead.

.....
¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Supposing He was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've removed Him, tell me where you've put Him, and I will take Him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said, "Mary." Turning around, she said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!"—which means "Teacher."

Have someone read "Believing the Resurrection" on pages 42-43 of *Collegiate*.

Mary Magdalene had a deep love for Jesus. After everyone else left His tomb, Mary stayed, weeping and mourning His loss. Her love for Jesus was unmistakable. Given the

measure of her love, it's surprising that she didn't recognize Jesus when she saw Him.

- Ask students to volunteer some possible reasons for why she failed to recognize the man she loved so much?

Pastor John MacArthur answers this question in an interesting way:

"The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 that a man only knows Christ by the Spirit of Christ. That's all. No man can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except the Spirit of God which is in him does the testifying."¹

In other words, the Christian faith calls us to a different kind of seeing. Christians often assume it would be easier to believe if they could only see Jesus in person and could touch Him in the flesh. Yet in human, earthly form, Jesus wasn't enough to help His followers believe. The only way they could truly see Christ was through the help of His Spirit, and it's been that way ever since.

You're not at a disadvantage because you can't touch Jesus — you already have everything you need to know and believe in Him.

- What does it mean to see Jesus today?

4) SHARING THE RESURRECTION

READ JOHN 20:17-18.

¹⁷ "Don't cling to Me," Jesus told her, "for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father—to My God and your God."¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them what He had said to her.

Have someone read "Sharing the Resurrection" on page 43 of *Collegiate*.

¹MacArthur, John, "The Resurrected Christ," gty.org

