



## Introduction

Max Lucado, in his book *Six Hours One Friday*, tells the story of a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians living in a remote part of the jungle near a large river. The tribe was in need of medical attention because a contagious disease was spreading across the village, and people were dying daily. A hospital was not far away—across the river—but the Indians would not cross it because they believed the river to be inhabited by evil spirits, and to enter its water would mean certain death. The missionary took them to the bank and placed his hand in the water. They wouldn't go in. He walked into the water up to his waist and splashed water on his face, but they were still afraid. Finally, he dove into the river and swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side, raising a triumphant fist into the air. It was then the Indians broke into a cheer and followed him across. As believers, we, too, are empowered by Christ's passing through the river of death and His resurrection from the grave. By believing He arose from the dead, we can claim victory over our sin, doubt, fears and physical needs.

## Discussion

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-17.** What room, if any, does Paul leave for believers to doubt Christ's resurrection? What are the consequences to our faith if we doubt the resurrection?
2. **Read Ephesians 1:19-20.** As a group, paraphrase these verses. What do they mean? What does this passage tell us about the availability of God's power in our lives? How does this power affect a Christian's prayer life? Interaction with nonbelievers? Goals/aspirations for using this power?
3. **Read Colossians 3:1-3.** What does it mean to be "raised with Christ"? How does this change our focus in life?

## Think About It

C.S. Lewis writes in *Mere Christianity*, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us." Do we sometimes need to be reminded that our belief in Christ must become "all or nothing"?

## Do Something

1. In a challenge to Christians, singer Keith Green writes, "Jesus rose from the dead, and you can't even get out of bed." If you're not spending quiet time with God each day, ask Him to wake you early this week to start your day in prayer. Remember, it's "knees before feet"!
2. Watch the YouTube music video, *My Redeemer Lives*, by Nicole C. Mullen, and read the passage that inspired it in **Job 19:25-27**. What can you learn from Job's life about hope in Christ's resurrection? Write down your thoughts, and refer to it throughout the day.