



Deeper Application Message Guide

"Captive - Part 3 "

Speaker: Pastor Jeff Love

Week of July 11, 2010

Getting Started

- 1) We share many tasks or vocations in this life, share with the group some of the things that other might say you would be good at, or describe things you are gifted at or enjoy doing.
 - a) Notice how everyone is unique. Do you see being unique as a strength or weakness? Why?
- 2) When you think of receiving a gift from God, describe what that means to you? What do you define as a gift?

Into the Bible

- 3) Read **Ephesians 4:7-13**
Why does God empower believers with special gifts? When God gifts an individual uniquely, what should that say about how we view God's gift in our own life?
 - a) Why does society downplay certain abilities and admonish other abilities? Why do some of us do the same?
- 4) Read **Ephesians 4: 14-16**
Discuss as a group what the passage in verse 14 mean when it says: "we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."
 - a) What is God's desire for every member of the church? How is the whole body benefited in this way?

- 4) Read **James 1:2-8**
What is the *power* of perseverance in our lives. Why is our spiritual maturity so important?
- 5) Read **1 Corinthians 9:24-26**
How well are you running the race of Christian maturity? Are you still at the starting gate? Or are you halfway there but out of breath? Or maybe you are on the last lap and stretching out for the finish line?
 - a) Where does real sustainable power come from? Discuss how our lack of wisdom and maturity can affect our lives and decisions.

Digging Deeper

- 6) Consider **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**
¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

What are the implications that affect me personally if Jesus did not rise from the dead?