

April 21, 2019
Why Easter?
Ted Cunningham

1. Our next series is **Why, God?** Of the listed questions below, which one are you most curious about? **Why?**

Why is life so hard?

Why do bad things keep happening to me?

Why does the future scare me?

Why did God let my loved one die?

Is there life after death?

Why does it feel like God is distant and angry?

What does God expect from me?

2. Have you ever “cuddled a snapping turtle” and then got bit? Please share. What point was Ted was making by contrasting that illustration to the upcoming “Why, God?” series?
3. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Paul says there are things that are of first importance. What are they? Why are they of first importance?
4. Paul continues in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 to say if the things of first importance are not true, then what is the result?
5. **READ Acts 17:32-34** When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed.
 - a. Do you remember when you first heard about Jesus rising from the dead?
 - b. Were you quick to believe, were you needing more information, or were you skeptical? Why do you think you reacted the way you did?
 - c. Why do you think some people “sneer”?
6. **READ Ephesians 1:18-20** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as

the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms

- a. **What is the hope to which he has called us that is mentioned in Ephesians 1:18-20?**
 - b. **Specifically, how is God's power shown in us? In what ways have you personally seen God's power work in you?**
7. **Of the fears mentioned (condemnation, future, death), which one do you or have you struggled with most? Please explain. How can Jesus rising from the dead relieve that fear?**
8. **Ted mentioned that Jesus lived His life with borrowed things: a stable, a place to rest his head, the fish and loaves, a colt, an upper room, and a tomb. What significance do you see in this pattern?**
9. **Are you inclined to live with more hype (hyperbole or exaggeration) or more hope? How does social media, TV, movies, and advertising promote hype?**
10. **When we feel empty and unfulfilled, we may be seeking survival, success, or a worldly measure of significance. Have you fallen into any of these traps? Please explain.**
11. **In what ways can God give our lives purpose? Have you discovered some purposes that God has for you? If so, please share.**
12. **What was your main takeaway from the sermon, "Why Easter?"**