

#1 THE CENTRALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

(Seven sermons in Acts)

1. REMEMBERING What are a few of the most *encouraging* beliefs in Christianity to you personally?
2. REFLECTING Before listening to last Sunday’s message, what would you say were some of the most *important* beliefs in Christianity?
3. DISCOVERING In the message, Dr. Ewing declared: **The earliest Christianity and Christian preaching focused on a single event: *the raising of Jesus from the dead*.** He then examined seven sermons in Acts and summarized them using the following chart. Using the chart, return to each of the seven sermons and examine them briefly. What are other repeated ingredients in the messages?

Passage/sermon	Speak	Audience	Message	Method
• Acts 2:22-32	Peter	Jews in Jerusalem on Pentecost	You killed; God raised; we’re witnesses	Quote Scripture
• Acts 3:12-26	Peter	Jews after healing lame man	You killed; God raised; we’re witnesses	Perform miracle; quote Scripture to explain
• Acts 4:8-12	Peter	Sanhedrin to explain healing of lame man	You crucified; God raised; we declare v. 12	Explain miracle; quote Scripture
• Acts 5:27-32	Peter	Sanhedrin, after angel released them from jail	You killed; God raised; we’re witnesses	Answer accusations by explaining recent events
• Acts 10:34-43	Peter	Gentiles, at house of Cornelius after visions	They killed; God raised; we’re witnesses	Connect dots—explain meaning of separate visions of two men
• Acts 13:16-41	Paul	Jews and God-fearing Gentiles in synagogue	Jews asked Pilate to kill; God raised; he was seen, and they’re witnesses	Summarize Jewish history, show how Jesus fulfilled it
• Acts 17:22-31	Paul	Philosophers at the Areopagus in Athens	God will judge; God raised Jesus; we’re his offspring	Quote philosopher-poets, use idolatry to connect

4. CONNECTING Which ingredients of the messages and which methods are still needed by those to whom we share the gospel today?
5. RESPONDING What will you do—specifically—over the next several weeks to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the resurrection?

The Resurrection is the epicenter of belief.
 (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)