

COURSE SYLLABUS

CA206: Ten Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection

An Our Daily Bread Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

Course Description

A case could be made that the central premise of the Christian faith is that Jesus rose from the grave. To many, it is a claim that hovers somewhere between wishful thinking and foolish faith. It seems naïve at best and preposterous at worst. But, is there good reason to believe in the resurrection? And, if so, what difference would it make? In this series of studies, we will consider the evidences of history that constitute *Ten Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection*. It is a study that could challenge conventional thinking, and offer new reason for hope.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To provide scholarly and historical evidence for the validity of Christianity
- To encourage logical thinking in evaluating the authenticity of the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Video-based teaching**
If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Multisensory learning**
For students who wish to use a medium other than video, we provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video (found in the Class Time section). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.
- **Readings and other media**
Students should have a copy of the Bible available in order to read the sections of the Bible assigned in each lesson. In addition, Scripture passages are linked to online Bible tools for convenience. These online resources also provide an opportunity for students for whom English is a second language to read the Bible passages in one of numerous international translations available.

For all other required reading assignments, CUGN provides the texts for this course in a downloadable Adobe® PDF format.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from

interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Response Time

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

Personal Reflection Journal

Students will be asked to record their thoughts in a Personal Reflection Journal. These entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, and are not graded.

Lesson Objectives

At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

Lesson 1: A Public Execution Assured His Death

- Explain how Jesus' death by crucifixion helps to validate His resurrection
- Describe, with specific Bible references, Joseph of Arimathea's role in authenticating Jesus' resurrection
- Describe, using Scripture, the role Roman soldiers played in establishing the reliability of Jesus' resurrection

Lesson 2: A High Official Secured the Gravesite

- Explain, in cultural context, the significance of the sealed tomb in authenticating the resurrection account
- Describe the role of Roman guards placed at the tomb in establishing the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Lesson 3: In Spite of Guards, The Grave Was Found Empty

- Explain the importance of the empty grave in establishing the truth of the resurrection account
- Discuss the specific testimony from the enemies of Christ and explain how their words provide evidence of Jesus' resurrection

Lesson 4: His Apostles Were Dramatically Changed

- Give specific examples of how the lives of Jesus' followers changed after His resurrection
- Explain why the dramatic changes in the apostles' lives provide strong reasons to believe in the resurrection of Christ
- Provide reasons why Peter's testimony of Christ's resurrection demonstrates its reality

Lesson 5: Many Claimed to Have Seen Him Alive

- Discuss the significance of eyewitness testimony relative to the resurrection account of Jesus
- Give several examples of such eyewitness testimony from Scripture
- Explain how the courage of the early believers in a hostile situation gives credence to the resurrection account

Lesson 6: Jewish Believers Changed Their Day of Worship

- Identify and explain reasons for new believers changing their day of worship from the Sabbath to the first day of the week
- Explain how the change in the day of worship helps authenticate the account of the resurrection of Jesus

Lesson 7: Witnesses Were Willing to Die for Their Claims

- Tell briefly several specific stories of the deaths of Jesus' followers.
- Explain why the willingness of many of Jesus' follower to die for their faith helps to validate the account that He rose from the dead

Lesson 8: Although His Resurrection Was Unexpected, It Was Clearly Predicted

- List biblical references in which Jesus predicted His own death, burial, and resurrection
- Discuss how such prophecies validate the resurrection account
- Delineate, using Scripture, the disciples' accounts of having seen Jesus after He died
- Explain how the surprise factor of Christ's resurrection gives proof that it was true

Lesson 9: The Resurrection Was a Fitting Climax to a Miraculous Life

- Explain how the resurrection of Christ was a fitting climax to the miraculous life He lived
- Discuss the resurrection of Christ as a fitting conclusion to the claims He made

Lesson 10: The Resurrection Fits the Experience of Those Who Trust Him

- Give examples of people today entering into relationship with Christ and experiencing changed lives
- Discuss how such personal transformations validate the living presence of Jesus
- Explain how the events recorded in the Scriptures compel us not only to believe in Christ's resurrection but also to follow Him

Course Requirements

In order to receive credit, the student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Course requirements include:

- Viewing the Class Time lectures for each lesson
- Completing the Reading Assignment for each lesson
- Composing adequate responses to all questions in the Response Time forums (see below for details)
- Reading the material in the Further Study section
- Keeping a Personal Reflection Journal in response to reflection questions
- Taking each lesson quiz and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

CLASS TIME

Each of the lessons in this course contains a lecture of approximately four to ten minutes in length. These instructional videos are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available in an audio file and a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media. This course includes the following Class Time lectures:

- A Public Execution Assured His Death
- A High Official Secured the Gravesite
- In Spite of Guards, the Grave was Found Empty
- His Apostles Were Dramatically Changed
- Many Claimed to Have Seen Him Alive
- Jewish Believers Changed their Day of Worship
- Witnesses Were Willing to Die for Their Claims
- Although His Resurrection Was Unexpected, It Was Clearly Predicted
- The Resurrection Was a Fitting Climax to a Miraculous Life
- The Resurrection Fits the Experience of Those Who Trust Him

READING ASSIGNMENT

Complete all readings listed in the Reading Assignment section of each lesson.

RESPONSE TIME

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the Response Time forum, students should complete the assignment after they have completed the Class Time lecture. Then they should return to the Response Time forum after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions to the students for completing the assignment:

- Enter Response Time
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question you wish to respond to first.
- Read the Discussion Question and share your thoughts with others.
- Repeat for each Discussion Question.
- Take the time to read other students' postings.

CUGN requires that students' discussion forum posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

FURTHER STUDY

The Bible reading or study assignments covered in the Further Study section should be read completely at least once and responses to questions are to be recorded in the students' Personal Reflection Journals.

QUIZZES AND EXAM

The quizzes and exam will cover the material from the Class Time lectures, Reading Assignment, and Further Study.

Course Grading and Requirements

QUIZZES AND EXAM

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| Quizzes | 40% of Course Grade |
| Final Exam | 60% of Course Grade |

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.

Individuals taking the class for academic credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to add additional reading requirements and to alter the syllabus to meet their accreditation requirements. Students seeking academic credit should check with their academic institution for details.