1. **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**

* How might one “believe in vain”?
* Give an example of how one “who holds fast to the word” might demonstrate it?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

* What three facts are of “first importance” according to Paul in these passages?
* During what part of the mass do we state these facts? (See Parts Below)

Introductory Rites:

Liturgy of the Word:

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Concluding Rites:

* Using the parts of the mass list above, can you explain what happens during each part briefly to the group (see <https://tinyurl.com/czyn2y92>)?
* What is the name of the prayer we recite that testifies to these truths that Paul just stated?
* How important to our faith are these three facts?
* What Non-Christian sources are you aware of that testified to these facts during the 1st century?

**Cornelius Tacitus** *(Annals of Imperial Rome book XV - 62-65 A.D.)*

(non-Christian source 1)

“Consequently , to get rid of the report Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators Pontius Pilate, and a most mischievous superstition thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find there center and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who plead guilty; then, upon their information an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as to hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beast they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”

**Titus Flavius Josephus** *(37 -101 A.D. Works of Antiquities of the Jews 18.63-64)*

*(*non-Christian Source 2)

“Now, there was about this time Jesus a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works a teacher of such men as received the truth with pleasure. He drew over both many of the Jews, and man of the Gentiles. He was the Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and 10, 000 other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”

* Is this news to you, or did you know Jesus was mentioned in history apart from the Bible and Christian writings?
* Consider the writings of **Cornelius Tacitus** and share something that supports Paul’s testimony in **1st Corinthians**.
* Reflect on the writings of **Titus Flavius Josephus** and share three facts in his historical account that testify to Paul’s claims in **1st Corinthians**.
* Reflecting back on **1st Corinthians**, who did Christ appear to first?
* Who did Christ appear to second?
* Why do you think Christ made his appearances in this order, does this hint at anything?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:6-9**

* Who did Christ appear to third?
* Who did Christ appear to fourth?
* Who did Christ appear to last?
* **Acts 7:54-60, 8:1-3, 9:1-3, 26:9-18**
* How does Paul feel about his designation as an “apostle” in your opinion?
* Have you ever felt this way as a Christian? Please share if you are willing?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:10-11**

* Is your response similar to Paul’s, in regard to the role you have taken on in the Church (whatever that may be)?
* Read the **Catechism Section 624**
* Please share something that was meaningful to you in today’s study with the group.