Part 2 – 1 Corinthians 15:12–28
Now and Then, But Still One Harvest
Leader's Guide
(Video 29 minutes)

Warm up questions pre-video: (10 minutes)
Read Revelation 7:9–10
❖ Where do we go when we die?
- An intermediate state.
  Body and spirit are separated—body in the ground, spirit in heaven.

Read Revelation 21:1–4
❖ Is death the fulfillment of our Lord's promise to His church?
- Sin is the cause of death. The fulfillment of our Lord's promise is the resurrection to eternal life in the New Heaven and New Earth.

Read John 3:16–18
❖ Are Lutherans "saved" in the sense some other Christian denominations proclaim they are?
- Yes.
- We are saved through the waters of baptism where we receive the promise of forgiveness. (Passive faith)
- Christ is active in our lives through his word and sacraments and in the continued acts of love and forgiveness. (Active faith)
- We are condemned by our lack of faith by the sin of unbelief.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–28
❖ Does God's promise of salvation and the truths of Scripture align themselves with worldly logic and reason?
- Using human logic and reason the truth of the gospel does not make much sense.
- Our Lord's agape love (sacrificial all giving love) for us works beyond our logic and reason.
- All of our powers and wisdom must remain subject to the Lord, who is "all in all."

❖ In the Apostles' Creed we confess that we believe that Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. What is Jesus's role today?
- Jesus is reigning in heaven over his creation.
- Everything is under Jesus's feet.
- The Father has his work of creation; the Son has his work of reigning

Post-video follow up questions: (20 minutes)

❖ If in Christ we have hope in this physical life only, why are we, as Paul states in 15:19, "of all people most to be pitied"?
- If Christ's resurrection was false our faith has been a fallacy.
- If there is no resurrection for us, there was no resurrection of Christ.
- Without the resurrection there is nothing.
- Life after life after death (N. T. Wright):
  - First Summit (Death)
    Being at rest with Christ.
  - Real Summit (Resurrection)
    New immortal life with Christ in his glory.

Read: Romans 6:3, 4
   Titus 3:4–7
   Romans 5:11

❖ From the video discussion what does "baptized in Christ" mean to us in light of Romans 6:3, 4? Titus 3:4–7? And Romans 5:11? As Christians are we "saved"? Are we "born again" Christians?
- Romans 6:3, 4 - Our resurrected hope is given to us through Christ's gift of the sacrament of baptism.
- Titus 3:4–7 - We are saved not based on our works but by the new life (being born again) through the Holy Spirit, by Jesus Christ in the waters of baptism.
- Regeneration – New life, I have been born again.
- Romans 5:11 - It is through Christ and him alone that we are reconciled with God the Father.
- We have been saved through the promise of baptism; we look forward to being saved in the resurrection.
- Luther's Small Catechism questions #133 through 135

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–13

❖ Referring to 1 Corinthians 13:4–13 and the video discussion, what does being saved and living eternally in God's love mean?
- Saved is a gift received by faith.
- Saved by sight where faith is no longer necessary.
- The greatest of these is love because:
  - The day will come when we don't have to live in faith anymore.
  - The day will come when we won't have to hope for anything.
  - It will all be here in the resurrection.
  - God's love alone will characterize God's relationship with us and our relationship with God and each other.

❖ What does it mean that Jesus is the "firstfruits of the harvest"?
- The firstfruits of a harvest are those picked that guarantee the quality of the rest of the harvest.
- There is one Great Harvest. Jesus is the firstfruits that guarantee the rest of the harvest to come.
- The harvest began with Christ's resurrection and will end when Christ comes back again for the fulfillment of the resurrection.