

## RAISED!

*Salvation comes through Jesus' death and resurrection.*

### LUKE 24:1-12

Luke wrote about the resurrection of Jesus. Luke was not one of the twelve disciples. He was not present with the people who saw Jesus while He was on earth. But Luke was Paul's faithful friend and traveled with him on his missionary trips. Luke carefully studied and talked with the people who were eyewitnesses to the life of Christ.

Luke writes about the resurrection like a historian. He tells us stories that no one else tells us. Only Luke tells about the appearance of Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Luke gives us the names of the women at the tomb. He gave these details because he knew the facts of the resurrection would help people believe the reality of the resurrection. No one had ever come back from the dead like Jesus did. The truth of the gospel depended on the reality of the resurrection. No wonder Luke cared about the resurrection details. The story Luke told helps us to know that Jesus is not dead. He is truly alive. Jesus being alive makes all the difference in history.

## LUKE 24:1-12

**1** Very early on the **first day of the week**, **A** at dawn, the women came to the **tomb**, **B** bringing the **spices** **C** they had prepared. **2** They found the **stone rolled away** **D** from the entrance of the tomb, **3** but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were wondering about this, **two men in shining clothes** **E** suddenly stood beside them. **5** The women were very afraid and bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to them, “Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead? **6** He is not here; he has risen from the dead. Do you remember what he told you in **Galilee**? **F** **7** He said the **Son of Man** **G** must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and rise from the dead on the third day.” **8** Then the women remembered what Jesus had said. **9** The women left the tomb and told all these things to the **eleven apostles** **H** and the other followers. **10** It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women who told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. **11** But they did not believe the women, because it sounded like nonsense. **12** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending down and looking in, he saw only the cloth that Jesus’ body had been wrapped in. Peter went away to his home, wondering about what had happened.

- a. Jesus arose on the first day of the week which is Sunday.
- b. The tomb was a cave with spaces cut out where the bodies were laid.
- c. Various kinds of spices were used to prepare the dead body for burial.
- d. The entrance of the tomb was covered by a large round stone that could be rolled to open or close the entrance of the tomb.
- e. The men were angels. Only Luke tells us that there were two of these heavenly messengers.
- f. An area near the Sea of Galilee, about 100 miles north of Jerusalem.
- g. Jesus often called Himself “Son of Man.” The words come from the Book of Daniel and refer to the Messiah. See Daniel 7:13.
- h. The eleven disciples; Judas was not with them anymore.

# EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus make it possible for people to be saved?
2. Why did the women wait until Sunday morning to go to the tomb?
3. How do you think the women felt when Jesus' body wasn't in the tomb?
4. What question did the men (angels) ask the women in verse 5? What did they mean?
5. What did the women do after they left the tomb?
6. How did the men react to the story the women told? Why didn't they believe?
7. How did Peter react when he saw the empty tomb? Why didn't Peter understand what had happened to Jesus?
8. Why is it hard for people to believe in the resurrection? Why do you believe it is true?
9. How does it help you to believe in the resurrection when you know that the women, the disciples, and many other people saw Jesus after His resurrection?

## **BIBLE SKILL:** *Resurrection Appearances of Jesus*

Read the passages listed below and write down the names of the people who saw Jesus after His resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:1-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 24:13-35 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 24:36-43 \_\_\_\_\_

John 20:1-29 \_\_\_\_\_

John 21:4-8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 \_\_\_\_\_

## IN MY CONTEXT

- Jesus' tomb is still empty.
- God raised Jesus from the dead so there is no doubt about His resurrection.
- Many people saw Jesus after the resurrection and clearly said He Is alive.

**What impact does the resurrection of Jesus have on your life each day?**

**Discuss ways people today are guilty of forgetting the words of Jesus. How can you and the members of your Bible study hold one another accountable for remembering and obeying Jesus' words?**

**With whom can you share about the resurrection of Jesus? Write their initials and begin to pray each day for the opportunity to share.**

## MEMORY VERSE

He is not here; he has risen from the dead. Do you remember what he told you in Galilee? – Luke 24:6

## DAY ONE

**Read Luke 24:1-3, discovering the greatest miracle in all of history.**

Jesus died on Friday afternoon. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus hurriedly buried His body (John 19:38-42). The women were not able to go to the tomb all day Saturday because it was the Sabbath Day. The law did not permit the women to work on the Sabbath. But at sunrise on Sunday morning, they went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They took spices to put on Jesus' body. Joseph and Nicodemus did some of that on Friday evening. The women came to complete the normal preparation of a body when it was buried.

Mark said the women discussed the problem of what to do with the heavy stone blocking the opening to the tomb (Mark 16:3). However, when they arrived at the tomb the large round stone had already been moved away. The tomb was open. Not only was it open, it was empty. The body of Jesus was gone. They probably thought someone had taken His body. They were about to learn the true reason for the empty tomb. Jesus was alive. God had raised Jesus back to life. The greatest miracle in all history had just happened—the resurrection.

**How can you explain to your Deaf friends what happened on that resurrection Sunday almost 2,000 years ago?**

## DAY TWO

**Read Luke 24:4-9, remembering the words of Jesus.**

The women had planned to properly bury Jesus' body. But when they arrived, their plans and their lives were changed! They were surprised when they saw the stone was moved. The women were even more surprised when the body of Jesus was not there! Can you imagine what they said to each other?

Then they saw the two angels. First, no stone. Then, no body. Then, two angels. It is easy to understand how the women were afraid! One of the angels spoke to the women and told them not to be afraid (Matthew 28:5). He asked, "Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead?" The angel said Jesus had been dead but now He was alive. Can you imagine what the women felt when they heard this?

The angel patiently reminded them how Jesus told them about His death and said He would rise to live again (Matthew 17:22-23;

Luke 9:21-22). When the women remembered what Jesus had said, they ran off to tell the disciples. This is the first time someone said the greatest truth in all of history—“He is alive!”

**Do you believe Jesus is alive today? How do you show you believe He is alive? How can you share the truth that Jesus lives?**

## DAY THREE

**Read Luke 24:10, identifying the women at the tomb.**

Who were these women who went to the tomb?

Mary Magdalene (from a place called Magdala) is the woman Jesus healed by removing seven demons (Matthew 28:1; Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9; John 20:1,14-18).

Joanna was the wife of Chuza. He worked for King Herod so they were probably wealthy. She was one of the women who went with Jesus from place to place (Luke 8:2-3). They may have prepared food for all the people who were with Him.

Mary the mother of James (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1) is not named in any other place in the New Testament. She was possibly the mother of one of the apostles whose name is usually given as James the Less (not James, the brother of John).

Salome was the mother of James and John (Matthew 27:56; Mark 16:1).

The women hurried to tell the disciples. This was not something to be kept secret. It is good to notice that the story of the resurrection was trusted first to these remarkable women. God uses men and women to tell His story. Men and women must continue to tell about the resurrection today.

**How do the women inspire you to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?**

## DAY FOUR

**Read Luke 24:11, thinking about why it is hard to believe the resurrection.**

The words from the women were strange and the apostles did not believe them. The Greek word translated *nonsense* means they thought the women were “out of their heads” or dreaming. The disciples did not expect Jesus to rise from death to life.

After Peter, John, and others saw the empty tomb, it still was not easy for them to believe. Do you remember the story about Thomas? He said he could not believe until he saw and touched Jesus (John 20:19-25). These men and women knew much more about death than they knew about resurrection. Some of them had seen Jesus bring Lazarus and others back to life. They knew Jesus had powers no one else had. But since Jesus was dead, how could He come back to life?

The men and the women did what they usually did when someone died. The women used spices to prepare the body. The men shared memories. They were in a terrible, dark place even though Jesus was already alive. So many people today live in darkness—spiritual darkness. Even so, Jesus is alive today and is ready to take them, by faith, out of darkness into His wonderful light.

**Why is it so hard for people to believe the truth of the resurrection? How can you convince your Deaf friends that the resurrection is real?**

### **KEY DOCTRINE:** *The Resurrection*

God raised Jesus from the dead. God raised the physical body of Jesus. His body was in many ways the same as His earthly body; however, it was different too—it was a glorified body. Jesus appeared to His disciples and many other people. They knew Jesus was the same Person who had been crucified. Later He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God.

## DAY FIVE

**Read Luke 24:12, finding the eyewitnesses to the resurrection.**

Have you noticed in the gospels how Peter is usually the first disciple to speak or act? John said Peter ran to the grave, and John ran with him (John 20:3). John recorded that he ran faster than Peter and looked into the cave. But Peter was the first (as usual!) to go into the cave. They went in and saw how the cloth for the head was separate from the rest of the grave clothes. If someone had removed the body, that person would not have left the clothes in the grave. Peter and John knew for sure Jesus' body had come out of those clothes (John 20:3-8). The two disciples had seen Lazarus when he came out of the tomb. Lazarus was still wrapped in the "grave clothes" (John 11:1-44). Peter was on the edge of believing. Now he was wondering. Soon he would be fully convinced.

By the end of that first Sunday, Peter, the disciples and the women had all become eyewitnesses to the truth of the resurrection. You and I have not seen Jesus with our eyes (yet), but we too are witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus!

**What does it mean to be an eyewitness to the resurrection? How are you an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus?**

### CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from Luke 24:1-12. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

**How can you convince someone that the tomb was and is empty?**

**Why is it important that God raised the body of Jesus from the tomb? How can each of you encourage the faith of your group?**

**How are you an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus? Who do you need to tell about the living Jesus? Pray with your group for those who struggle with faith in Christ.**



# RAISED!

Luke 24:1-12

## PLAN AHEAD

**Pray** for the group to find great joy in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Enlist** a volunteer to summarize the information about Luke in the introduction to the session (p. 53).

**Recruit** another member to sign the story from Luke 24:1-12. They should prepare it as a story, not reading it from the text, if possible.

**Be prepared** to answer any questions the group might have about the daily readings from last week.

## FOCUS ATTENTION

**EXPLAIN:** *Because today is Easter, we will hold our study of Romans until next Sunday. Today is the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will study Luke's account of the story.* **INVITE** the volunteer to share the information from the introduction to the session.

**EXPLAIN:** *After an illegal trial and a terrible beating and crucifixion, two of Jesus' friends buried Him in a tomb. The Roman government sealed the stone that covered the tomb and put a guard there. They knew Jesus told the disciples He would live again. They did not want Jesus' disciples to steal His body to make it look like Jesus came back to life. (See Matthew 27:62-66.)*

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### 1. What They Found (Luke 24:1-3)

**EXPLAIN:** *Luke 23:56 says the women prepared spices and perfumes the day of the crucifixion and then rested on the Sabbath. Mark wrote that on Saturday evening, after the Sabbath, they bought more spices. The women were prepared to take care of Jesus' body. On their way to the tomb, they wondered how they would move the stone (Mark 16:3).*

**INVITE** the volunteer to sign the full story from Luke 24:1-12. **LEAD** in a discussion of questions 1,2, and 3 from Explore the Text (p. 55).

## 2. Announcing the News (Luke 24:4-9)

**ENCOURAGE** the group to read Luke 24:4-9. Then **DIRECT** a discussion of questions 4-6 from Explore the Text. **EXPLAIN:** *Jesus told His disciples He would die. He explained that on the third day He would rise from the dead. Apparently, they did not understand this or did not accept it. They did not expect an empty tomb.*

**REMEMBER** that the chief priests and the Pharisees knew Jesus said He would rise again. They are the ones who asked Pilate to put a guard at the tomb. We might wonder why the disciples did not understand this. But perhaps we are slow to understand some things ourselves.

**ASK:** *Are there some things in the Bible that we don't understand? Or maybe there are some things we don't want to accept? We can pray for each other to clearly understand what God tells us in His message to us.*

## 3. Proved (Luke 24:10-12)

**INVITE** the group to read Luke 24:10-12. **LEAD** them to discuss questions 7-9 in Explore the Text.

**DIVIDE** the group into smaller groups of three or four. **DIRECT** them to read Luke 24:13-53 and make some notes on what happened next in the story. When they come back together **INVITE** each group share some of the events they found.

## IN MY CONTEXT

**EXPLAIN:** *Some people wonder why there are some different pieces of information in the four gospels. We must remember they were written by four different men. They emphasized different things. As you read all four you will get a more complete story. Try to read all four accounts sometime this week.*

**REVIEW** the main points from In My Context (p. 56). **GUIDE** the group to answer the questions. **ENCOURAGE** the group to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share.

**CLOSE** with prayer, asking God to help us share the good news that Jesus is alive with others we meet this week.