

## Unit .27

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### Session .01

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# Jesus Is Resurrected

### Scripture

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## John 20:1-10

**1** On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, “They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him!” **3** At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. **5** Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but

he did not go in. **6** Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. **7** The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. **8** The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. **9** For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Imagine you were with the women visiting the tomb. How would you have responded to what you saw?

Do you think the disciples were afraid before hearing about the empty tomb? Explain your answer.



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Faith

Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

## Main Point

# Sin and death were defeated in Jesus' resurrection.

**In what ways was Jesus the firstfruits? What does this mean for all who are in Christ?**

**What truths about Christianity do we believe despite our inability to fully understand them? What does it look like to trust Jesus as our risen Lord, even when we cannot see the object of our faith?**



## Christ Connection

On Easter Sunday, God vindicated His Son's perfect sacrifice by raising Him from the dead and beginning the new creation He had long promised to His people. Through faith, we are united to Christ and share in the promise of being resurrected in His likeness. Sin's curse has been removed, death has been defeated, and we are assured of everlasting life with God.

**In what ways is our faith dependent upon the resurrection? In what ways is the resurrection important in your everyday life?**

## In Defense



It is remarkable that women were the first to testify to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus' resurrection. From a first-century legal perspective, they were unworthy to be witnesses in that particular time and place. Indeed, that fact has often been offered as a strong supporting piece of evidence for the historical accuracy of the event. After all, how likely would it be for someone in that culture to create a story based off of the testimony of witnesses who would have been viewed as relatively unreliable?



## Head

**Based on this account, how should a Christian approach death?**

**What are some ways Christians can offer hope to those who fear death?**



## Heart

**How does the message of Jesus' resurrection offer hope to those who have none?**

**What are the easiest things in life for you to get excited about and want to share with others? What are some of the most difficult? Why should the historical resurrection of Jesus be one of the things we get excited to share with others?**

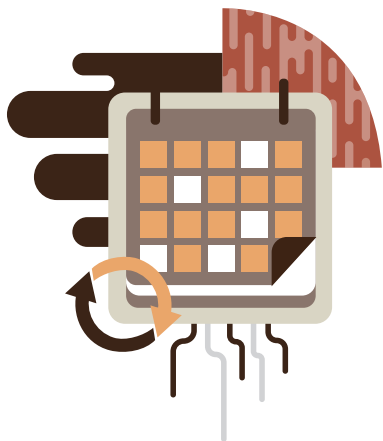


## Hands

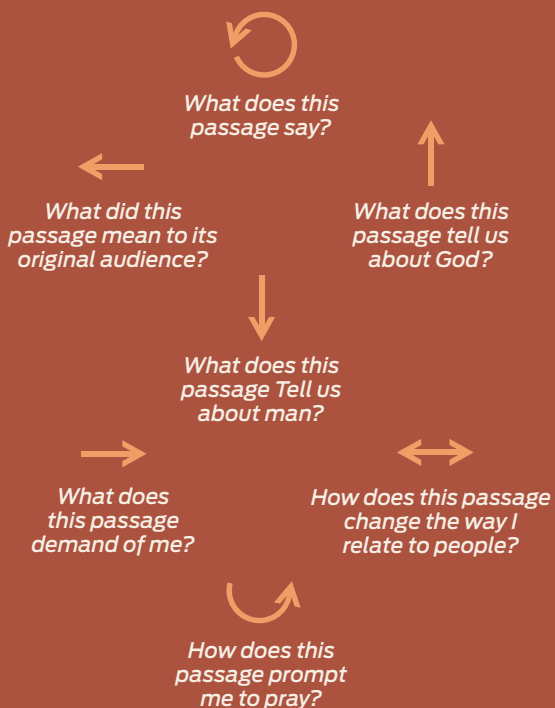
**How does the resurrection compel you to display and share the gospel in your school/neighborhood?**

**Would your neighbors say that your life is marked first and foremost by the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?**

# Daily Devotions



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day 1

## Matthew 28:1-8

The earth quaked with the power of the Lord and just the sight of His angel struck paralyzing fear. The angel's proclamations to the women were compelling:

1. "Do not fear. I know who you are looking for."
2. "Jesus has done just what He said He would do and has risen."
3. "Come and see the evidence."
4. "Go tell what you've seen."

This same call is for us today. Come lay your fear at Jesus' feet because He is the solution you've searched for to fill every void in your life. He perfectly keeps His promises. Come and see the evidence of this. See the empty tomb.

Through His death and resurrection you are made whole, united to Him and reconciled to God. This is the substance of our faith: death would not hold our Savior in the grave, but He has risen victorious. When you've seen what is dead come to life, keeping this life-giving truth to yourself is impossible. Great joy bubbles over, just as it did for the women as they departed the tomb on that glorious Easter morning.

**Is your life presently marked by great joy because of the truth of the resurrection? Why or why not?**

# John 20:1-2

Mary Magdalene, motivated by her love for Jesus, went to anoint His body with spices only to find that His body was no longer in the tomb. Her assumption that Jesus' body had been stolen was far from the truth.

She had been with Jesus as He taught, but her reaction wasn't to consider Scripture and ponder at His promise to raise from the dead. Rather than assume the miraculous, she jumped to the most likely conclusion in light of the laws of nature.

How often do we ignore that our God can raise the dead, that He reigns over all of creation and is not bound by any impossibility? A moment of doubt or disbelief does not mean unbelief will be our story. Mary later saw the Lord with her own eyes and believed.

**In what ways do we forget God's power to do the miraculous? How should the way we pray or trust Him change in light of this?**

# John 20:3-7

Two men, considered viable witnesses to determine the truth of an occurrence under Jewish custom, came to see the evidence of Jesus' empty tomb for themselves. In a culture where running for fun or exercise was unheard of, the two men ran to the tomb, with John's humorous anecdote that he won the foot race. News about Jesus moved them to action.

The physical evidence of Jesus' resurrection were the bandages that would have been secured with ointment, difficult to remove from even the most committed grave robber, and the empty tomb. Who would want to carry out a decaying, heavy body from a tomb, which by the law's standards would also make them unclean? And who would fold a piece of it? The evidence pointed to a far more miraculous conclusion. They wouldn't understand immediately, but the evidence was clear: Jesus had risen!

**What evidence of the resurrection is visible in your life?**

# John 20:8-10

Jesus predicted His resurrection multiple times while He was with His disciples, yet they did not understand (Matt. 16:4; Mark 8:31; John 2:19).

John saw the empty tomb, and although he didn't fully understand, he believed. God is infinite and mighty, more powerful and wonderful than our tiny minds can envision. His plan is above ours, and He is holy and transcendent. Yet, He has given us His Word who has revealed His truth.

Jesus is the Word made flesh, and it is through His resurrection that we may experience reconciliation with God, receiving the Holy Spirit as a down payment of what is to come. It is the Holy Spirit who illuminates Scripture for us, helping us to understand its teaching. We won't understand perfectly until we see Jesus face to face, but we, like John, may believe despite what our minds cannot fully comprehend.

**What truths about Christianity do you struggle to comprehend? How does John's faith build your own?**

# John 20:11-18

Jesus approached the weeping Mary, and rather than announcing His resurrection with fanfare, He kindly asked her why she was crying and then revealed who He was by calling her name. She was the first to see the risen Lord, but many would follow. More than five hundred people in total would see our raised and glorified Savior, an undeniable proof of Jesus' resurrection (1 Cor. 15:6).

Christ's resurrection is the certification that He has done what He said He would do. There is no greater miracle than moving from death to life, and yet, this is what God offers to us: to put off the old self and be made anew (Eph. 4:22-24) by Him. Although we don't see Jesus in His resurrected body, we see Him through Scripture and the work of the Spirit to open our eyes to His work. And when our eyes have been opened, we can proclaim with Mary, "I have seen the Lord!"

**How have you observed the Holy Spirit renewing your spirit and of those around you?**