

From Facts to Faith

This weekend we celebrated the most incredible event in all of human history – Jesus Christ risen from the dead. When reports of the resurrection first came to the disciples, it was nonsense to them. How could Jesus be alive?! They had seen him crucified. And yet, Jesus stood among them convincing them of the fact of His resurrection. Jesus also helped them get the significance of the resurrection for their lives. As we consider this passage today, may we be reminded and encouraged of the significance of the resurrection for our lives.

Opening Discussion: Have you ever gone through a time of serious spiritual questioning after becoming a follower of Jesus? Explain.

Read Luke 24:36-49

1. How do the disciples initially respond to Jesus standing among them? Why?
2. What does Jesus do to convince the disciples that it is actually Him risen from the dead?
3. What does this passage reveal about the nature of Jesus' resurrection body?
4. How do the disciples become convinced that Jesus had indeed risen bodily from the dead? What did it take for them to truly "get it"?
5. What truths does Jesus communicate in verses 44-49?

Steve said:

Some of you may be familiar with the game called Jenga. You begin by stacking up layers of wooden blocks in an overlapping pattern to form a tower. To play the game you take turns removing a block from somewhere in the stack; you lose the game when you remove a block that causes the rest of the tower to collapse. In the Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is like that block. If you remove the resurrection of Jesus from Christianity, the whole thing collapses. In 1 Corinthians 15:17 Paul said that "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless." But if Jesus **was** raised from the dead, it validates everything He said and did. His resurrection validated everything Jesus had taught about God, about how we should live out lives, about His identity as the Son of God who died as our substitute!

6. Why does the resurrection validate everything Jesus did and said during His life?

7. As you think about the church history recorded in the book of Acts, how convinced did the disciples become of the resurrection? Explain.

8. For the disciples the fact of Jesus' resurrection was a revolutionary truth. It changed their lives! For us the truth of Jesus' resurrection sometimes becomes sort of a ho-hum, "yeah, I've known that all my life," kind of truth. How does such an incredible truth become ho-hum in our lives at times? What can we do to avoid this?

9. What is the significance of the resurrection for your daily life? For your purpose in life?