



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Seeing Jesus rise from death



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member why you believe Jesus is alive?
2. True or false, Jesus' resurrection was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah? (True, see Isaiah 53:7 – 11; roughly 700 years B.C.).
3. True or false, Jesus' tomb location was well known? (True; see Luke 23:50 - 53).
4. According to Luke 24:1 – 3; 10 – who found Jesus' tomb empty and went to tell the other disciples? (Women).



Let's go deeper

5. According to 1 Cor.15:3 – 6, what was the size of the crowd Jesus appeared to during His 40 days on earth? (500 people).
6. According to Acts 1:12 – 14, who worshipped Jesus as God? (His own family).
7. According to 1 Cor.15:8 – 9, who persecuted the church as an enemy of God before encountering the risen Jesus? (Saul who became Paul).
8. How can we know Jesus is still alive and at work today? (Through personal testimonies of people's lives that are changing to this day).



Let's apply this

9. Matthew 28:6; He (Jesus) is not here, He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.

Just as Jesus promised and fulfilled His promise of resurrection, in the same way we can trust Him to fulfill His promises in His Word.

- Which promises are you trusting for?
- How has the resurrection of Christ strengthened your faith?
- Which of the reasons has impacted you most and will you share with a friend or family member this week?

SUMMARY:

- How can we be confident that Jesus really did rise from death?

What is resurrection? Read: 1 Corinthians 15:17.

22 Reasons to Believe in Jesus' Resurrection

1. Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament. - 1000 B.C. – see Psalm 16:10 and 700 B.C. – see Isaiah 53:7 – 11.
2. Jesus prophesied His resurrection in advance (See Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33 – 34).
3. Jesus died.
4. Jesus' tomb location was well known (See Luke 23:50 – 53).
5. Jesus' tomb was guarded by the Roman government (See Matthew 27:62 – 66).
6. Jesus' empty tomb was found by women (See Luke 24:1–3, 10).
7. Jesus' disciples were transformed from cowards to courageous.
8. Jesus appeared to crowds upwards of 500 people over 40 days (See 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 6).
9. Jesus' followers remained loyal to Him.
10. Jesus' tomb was not enshrined (See Edwin Yamauchi, "Easter: Myth, Hallucination or History? Part One," Christianity Today 18, no. 12, March 15, 1974.)
11. Jesus' followers worshipped Him as God.
12. Jesus' family worshipped Him as God (See Acts 1:12 – 14).
13. Jesus' followers changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday (See Rev.1:10).
14. Jesus' followers practiced communion and baptism.
15. Jesus' enemy Paul was converted (See 1 Corinthians 15:8 – 9).
16. Jesus' resurrection was recorded shortly after it occurred (see 1 Corinthians 15:6).
17. Jesus' resurrection is unique in history.
18. Jesus' resurrection is verified by history. See Josephus (AD 63-64)
19. Jesus' Church has stood the test of time (see Matthew 16:17–21)
20. Jesus is alive and changing lives to this day.
21. Jesus' resurrection pre-dates the odd pagan versions of "resurrection."
22. Jesus' resurrection defies any alternate explanation.

What are the primary objections to Jesus' resurrection?

1. Swoon theory (Taught by Christian Science and Islam).
2. Spiritual not physical resurrection (Taught by Jehovah's Witness).
3. Everyone went to the wrong tomb (Joseph of Arimathea, Roman government, women, and disciples all knew Jesus' burial location).
4. Jesus' body was stolen (This was the first Jewish alternative explanation and assumes the Roman government failed to secure the tomb but doesn't explain how Jesus' dead body returned to life)
5. Jesus had a body double (How could family and friends be tricked for 40 days, including Thomas who saw the scars?)
6. Jesus' resurrection was a mass hallucination (1 Cor. 15 says he appeared to groups as large as 500 over 40 days)