

THE
COMFORT
OF
JESUS

(Part 2: studies for Easter)



The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. Everything.

These studies will help you dive into Luke's account of Jesus' resurrection appearances. Central to Luke's account is his goal to help his original recipient (Theophilus) to know the certainty of the historical events surrounding Jesus (cf Luke 1:4). In providing this certainty to Theophilus, Luke's gospel also provides us a firm foundation on which to **live all for Jesus**.

As with any Bible study, these are most helpfully done in advance when doing them in a group context.



You will notice that each study now has **three asterisk questions about the text** and **one asterisk "Think it over" question**. This is to help those groups who are finding time constraints more critical over Zoom. Hopefully group members will have still prepared the full study in advance however the asterisk questions can provide a more concise way of negotiating the study as a group. This option might also be useful for those having one-to-one studies over the phone.

LUKE 23:50-24:12

A Sunday that brings comfort

Getting started

What's the biggest surprise you've ever had?

Read Luke 23:50-56



1) These verses contain a lot of specific details about Joseph and the tomb used for Jesus body. Why do you think Luke includes these details?

2) It was usual to anoint a body with spices *before* placing it in a tomb. Why didn't this happen in Jesus' case? Why do you think this might be significant?

3) Why do you think Luke mentions that the women "followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it"? (v55)

Read Luke 24:1-8

4) What do you think the women might have been thinking and feeling on their way to the tomb in verse 1?



5) Jesus had repeatedly mentioned he would be raised to life on the third day (eg Luke 9:21-22). Why do you think the women might have forgotten these statements? What causes them to remember?



Read Luke 24:9-12

6) How do the disciples respond to the women's news? Why is their response both understandable and disappointing?

7) Once more Luke provides very specific details about who the women were and which disciple was involved in investigating for himself. Why do you think Luke includes these details?

8) Once Peter saw the empty tomb for himself, what are his options for what has happened? Based on the last sentence, which option do you think he chose?

Think it over

- "Dead people don't come back to life! And it's silly to think they do!" How might you use this passage to respond to that comment?

- What things stop you from believing and obeying Jesus' words?



- What are the consequences of Jesus' resurrection for us?

- What are some practical ways we can use this passage to help comfort each other and the wider community in the current COVID-19 crisis?

LUKE 24:13-35

A road trip that brings comfort

Getting started

Can you think of a time when you suddenly understood something for the first time? What helped you understand it? How did you feel when you understood it?

Read Luke 24:13-24

1) How do the two men describe "the things that have happened?"



2) How do the men refer to Jesus in their description of what has happened? In what ways are they right and in what ways are they wrong about Jesus?

3) What do you think it means that the men "were kept from recognising" Jesus? (v16).

Read Luke 24:13-32

4) Do you think Jesus is being a bit harsh in calling the men 'foolish'? Why or why not?



5) What does verse 27 tell us about the Old Testament? Why is this an important lesson to remember whenever we read the Old Testament?

6) Why do you think the two men recognised Jesus when they did?

Read Luke 24:33-35

7) The two men can't wait to tell the disciples what has happened to them. But what has happened to the disciples in the meantime?!

 8) How does this passage help achieve Luke's goal of informing Theophilus "the certainty of the things you have been taught"? (cf Luke 1:4)

Think it over

- What do you think it means that their hearts "burned within them" when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them (verse 32)? Have you ever experienced this while reading the Bible?

 • What role do the Scriptures have in this passage? What role should the Scriptures have in helping us tell people about Jesus?

- What are some practical ways we can use this passage to help comfort each other and the wider community in the current COVID-19 crisis?

LUKE 24:36-52

An appearance that brings comfort

Getting started

It's a significant historical fact that Jesus' body was never recovered by the Roman or Jewish officials of the day. It's no doubt something they would have liked to have done so as to stamp out any rumour of Jesus having come back to life. What are all different possibilities for why Jesus' body disappeared?

Read Luke 24:36-43

1) How do the disciples react when Jesus appears among them? How is this again (cf Question 6, Study 3) both understandable and disappointing?

2) What are Jesus' first words to his disciples? Why do you think he greets them this way?



3) List all the things Jesus does to help them believe it really is him.

Read Luke 24:44-49

4) This is the second time in the chapter Jesus has mentioned that he is the fulfilment of Moses and the Prophets (see back to v27). Why do you think this is so important?



5) What does Jesus say will now happen? What role do the disciples have in this?

6) What is Jesus referring to in verse 49?

Read Luke 24:50-52



7) How do the disciples feel at the end of this passage? How does this compare to the start of the passage? What's made the difference?

8) If you didn't know anything at all about Luke's next volume (Acts) how would you expect it to begin? What would you expect it to be about?

Think it over



- What role do we have in the plan Jesus explained in v47-49? How is our role different to the disciples? How is our role the same as the disciples?

- Look back at your answer to the "Getting Started" section. How does this passage narrow your options for all different possibilities as to why Jesus' body disappeared?

- What are some practical ways we can use this passage to help comfort each other and the wider community in the current COVID-19 crisis?