

Questions / Answers

1. What did the Jewish rulers do to the tomb where Jesus was buried?
They sealed the stone and put guards outside.
2. What happened very early on the first day of the week?
There was an earthquake and Jesus rose from the dead.
3. What did the women see at the tomb?
They saw two angels who told them that Jesus had risen.
4. What happened to Mary Magdalene at the tomb?
She saw a man she thought was the gardener. He said, 'Mary' and she knew it was Jesus.
5. Which 2 disciples ran to the tomb? What did they find?
Peter and John. The grave clothes, but Jesus' body had gone.
6. How did the 2 disciples who met a stranger recognise it was Jesus?
They knew Jesus when he broke bread.
7. Which disciple did not believe that Jesus was risen?
Thomas.
8. What did Jesus ask Peter? How many times did he ask? Why did he ask?
"Do you love me?" 3 times. he forgave the 3 times Peter denied him.
9. What is the most important event in history?
The resurrection of Jesus.
10. Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?
It provides the way for sins to be forgiven and for our salvation. Jesus is now immortal and will raise the dead when he returns.

Memory verses

1 Corinthians 15:20 John 20:29 Philippians 3:10—11

Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20—23. Discuss what these verses mean and why the resurrection of Jesus is important for our salvation.

Writing

Make a list of the people who saw Jesus after he was raised from the dead. How did they each recognise Jesus?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 37 The resurrection of Jesus

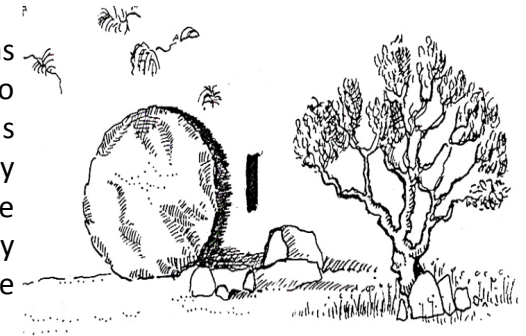


READING Luke 24:1—35; John 20; John 21:1—18; 1 Corinthians 15:20—23

LESSON

After Jesus died, he was quickly buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. It was evening time. The women, who had come with Jesus from Galilee, watched to make sure they knew where the tomb was. They planned to return after the Feast to anoint Jesus' body with more spices.

The place where Jesus was buried was a small room cut into a rocky hillside. Inside there was a rock shelf on which his body was laid. The doorway of the tomb was closed by rolling a very large round stone across the doorway.



The Jewish rulers remembered that Jesus had said that he would come back from the dead. They sealed up the large stone door so they would know if anyone went in to steal the body. They put guards outside the tomb to keep watch.

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the earth shook and an angel rolled back the stone. The guards were so frightened that they fainted on the ground. God raised Jesus to life again. When the guards recovered they went and told the Jewish rulers. The Jewish rulers bribed the guards. They told the guards to tell lies and say that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus.

At dawn that day the women came to the tomb bringing spices to anoint the body of Jesus. The women saw two angels, who told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. The angels told them to go and tell the good news to the disciples. The women hurried away to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

One of the women stayed by the tomb. She was Mary Magdalene. Mary did not understand. She thought someone had taken away the body of Jesus. Mary stood in the garden crying. Then she saw a man. She thought he was the gardener. She asked him if he had taken away the body. The man said gently, "Mary." Then Mary knew that it was Jesus. He was alive again! Mary was full of joy.

The disciples did not believe what the women told them. They did not believe that angels had told the women that Jesus was alive again. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first. He looked into the tomb. He could see the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' body lying on the shelf. Then Peter came to the tomb. He went inside. He saw the cloth and the napkin that had been round Jesus' head. But Jesus was not there. Peter could not understand what had happened.

Later that day, two of Jesus' disciples started to walk to a village a few miles from Jerusalem. A stranger joined them and walked with them. The stranger asked why they were sad. The disciples told them about Jesus and that he had been crucified. The disciples told the stranger that the women had found the tomb empty and said that Jesus had risen from the dead. Then the stranger began to explain that the Christ had to suffer death and to rise again from the grave. The stranger told them about all the prophecies in the Old Testament which had told about these things.

When they reached the village it was getting dark. The disciples invited the stranger to stay with them. They all sat down to a meal. The stranger took the bread and broke it and gave it to them. Immediately they recognised him. It was Jesus! He was alive again! Jesus disappeared. The two disciples hurried all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the good news to the other disciples.

The disciples met together that night. They met in an upstairs room. They locked the door because they were afraid of the Jewish rulers. Suddenly Jesus stood among them. Jesus was alive! Now they believed that Jesus really was alive again.

But Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there. Thomas did not see Jesus. The other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus. Thomas did not believe them. A week later, Jesus came to them again. This time Thomas was there. "Look!" said Jesus "Put your finger into the wounds in my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Jesus told the disciples to go back to Galilee. One night Peter and some of the disciples went out fishing. They caught nothing all night. In the morning someone called to them from the shore, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat." Then their net was full of fishes. It was Jesus on the shore! Jesus cooked some breakfast for them. Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Each time Peter told Jesus that he did love him. Peter had denied Jesus three times. So now Peter had to tell Jesus three times that he loved him. This showed that Jesus had forgiven Peter.

The disciples stayed in Galilee for about six weeks. They saw Jesus many times while they were there. Jesus taught them many things from the Bible. Jesus explained things that they had not understood before.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus was the most important event in history. The death and resurrection of Jesus made the fulfilment of all God's promises possible.

All through his life Jesus battled against temptations. Jesus conquered sin in his life. Jesus lived a perfect life. He gave his life as a perfect sacrifice when he died on the cross. Jesus provided the way for our sins to be forgiven.

Jesus was raised to life again. He will never die again. He is immortal. When Jesus comes back to the earth he will raise to life all those who believed in God. He will give eternal life in God's Kingdom to the those who have been faithful.