



Family Conversation Guide

(EASTER - April 4, 2021)

Happy Easter to you! In this week's sermon, David Chadwick discusses the theories people have had over the years to **disprove the resurrection of Jesus**, and the proofs that **His resurrection really did happen.**

READ AND DISCUSS

Before listening to the sermon, ask family members to listen for some of the **proofs of the resurrection.** You may want to refer to some of the scripture passages that correlate with this message: [1 Corinthians 15:4-21](#), [John 19-20](#), [Luke 24](#).

1. **What were some of the theories people had over the years as they tried to prove that Jesus was not resurrected?** Why did they not make sense?
 - **The swoon theory** - That Jesus wasn't really dead and woke back up in the tomb, rolling away the stone to go and look for His disciples. But the guards would have stopped Him, and he would have been too weak to roll away the stone.
 - The disciples or someone else **stole the body.** The guards and the stone would have prevented this.
 - **Mass hallucinations** - That Christians wanted to believe Jesus was alive so much that they hallucinated that it was true, but this many people could not have hallucinated the same thing.
 - The early **church lied to keep the story of Jesus alive.** But would they have died for a lie?

2. **Can you think of some of the proofs that Jesus was resurrected?** Discuss the following statements.

- **The Roman guards.** They were professionals - they knew what they needed to do to make sure that Jesus died on the cross. It was their job and they made sure He died.
- The guards didn't **break Jesus bones.** Why? They knew He was already dead. Also, this fulfilled a prophecy of the Old Testament - King David said the bones of the Messiah would not be broken.
- The **guards were guarding the tomb.** They knew their lives depended on keeping the body of Jesus from being tampered with or taken. They would not have allowed anyone to enter or roll the stone away.
- The **stone blocking the tomb - it weighed over 1 ton.** Who moved it? God did! Not to let Jesus out, but to let us in. To prove that Jesus was alive!
- For 1200 years, **the Jews had celebrated Passover.** Now, the Lord's Table replaced the Passover for the Christians, on the Thursday night of Holy Week.
- **The Sabbath.** For 1200 years, Jews observed the Sabbath on Saturday. After the resurrection, Jewish Christians changed their worship day (Sabbath) to Sunday, to celebrate the day that Jesus was resurrected.
- **The eyewitnesses** - over 500 people who were faithful Jews. If they had lied they would have been breaking the Jewish law that they all followed.
- The **disciples went to their deaths as martyrs** because they had seen Jesus alive and they died proclaiming that He alone was Lord. They would not have all died for a lie.
- **Changed lives.** Look at [1 Corinthians 15](#): Peter (who was a coward when Jesus was arrested and lived the rest of his life boldly proclaiming the gospel), James - Jesus' half brother (who doubted Him but became the head of the Jerusalem church after Jesus' resurrection), and Paul (who murdered Christians, then became the apostle to the Gentiles because he saw Jesus alive)

3. Think about this - only one of these things is true: Jesus was a **liar**. He was a **lunatic**. He was a **legend** - meaning the early church made it up. Or: **He was the truth** - He was who He said He was. **What do you think?**

4. If we believe that Jesus is who he said He was, then **we have a decision to make: To believe and to follow Jesus, or to deny Him.** To believe in Jesus can be called The Great Surrender. Your life can change, forever, by believing Jesus died for you, by loving Jesus, and following Him with your life!

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Teach your kids to investigate and find the answers about Jesus, the Bible, and faith for themselves! Here are some great books that we recommend that can be found on Amazon and Christianbook.com:

- **Cold Case Christianity for Kids** by J Warner Wallace and Susie Wallace
- And these **books by J Warner Wallace, Susie Wallace, and Rob Suggs:**
 - God's Crime Scene For Kids
 - Forensic Faith For Kids
- Also, these **books by Lee Strobel:**
 - Case For Christ for Kids
 - Case for a Creator for Kids
 - Case for Faith for Kids

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes it's hard to have faith when we don't understand. Help us to understand and believe that You are the Christ, the Lamb of God who died for us on the cross and who was raised from the dead. Thank you for taking away our sins and giving us new life in You! In Jesus' name. Amen.

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Watch the **story of Easter on The Bible App for Kids**. Go to this link for a free download, and watch "It is Finished" and "A Happy Sunday" together. Remind your little ones how much God loves them. Ask if they have sinned and done wrong things. Tell them that because Jesus died, their sins can be forgiven. All they have to do is accept His gift! <https://bibleappforkids.com>

1. Have you ever sinned or done wrong things? (Let kids discuss)

2. What happens when we do wrong things? (We are punished)
3. Your parents love you, even when you do wrong things. And God loves you, even when you sin! He loves us so much that He wants to have a forever relationship with us, but our sin deserves punishment. That's why God sent His Son to save us, to take our sins on Himself and die on the cross so that we could be His friend forever. Jesus took on the punishment that we deserved. That's how much Jesus loves you.
4. What a blessing it is for parents to be able to lead their children to Christ! Your child may be ready to accept Jesus- here's a simple guide for you to lead them. It's as easy as A-B-C! They Admit that they are a sinner and that they have done wrong things, they Believe that Jesus came to earth to die for their sins, and they Choose to accept His free gift of salvation. Talk about this with them, and if you feel they are ready, pray with them.