

WATCH A 10-15 MINUTE MINI SERMON

Watch this lesson (& the others for this series) by going to <https://bit.ly/33qDkDW>.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. **Read Matthew 13:55-56 and John 7:5.** What do you imagine it might have been like for James growing up as Jesus' younger brother? How might that have caused him to be cynical of Jesus' claims to be the long-awaited Messiah?
2. **Read Mark 3:20-21 and 31-35.** What did Jesus' family think about His ministry at this point? What was Jesus' response?
3. **Read Galatians 2:9.** How is James described? James changed from being a cynic to a church leader in a very short time. What caused such dramatic change in his life? *See 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (especially vs 7).*
4. **Read Acts 1:12-14.** This scene takes place about six weeks after the resurrection. This gathering of Jesus' disciples and family might have been a bit awkward for James. What do you think would have made James feel awkward about joining the group of apostles after his previous disbelief? Describe a time when you faced feeling awkward with doing something God was calling you to do.
5. Out of the four people we looked at in this series (Mary, Peter, Saul, James), which did you find the most compelling in supporting the truth of the resurrection of Jesus?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:14.** Our Christian faith hinges completely on whether or not Jesus rose from the dead. At what point in your spiritual journey did you become convinced that Jesus rose from the dead? What convinced you, and was there a gap between being convinced of the resurrection and surrendering your life to Jesus?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

1 Corinthians 15:14 NIV

SHARE CHRIST KEYSTONE STUDY: If your group wants to grow in their knowledge and confidence to share Christ with others then go through the five week Share Christ Keystone study. You can get all the materials for this study by emailing JustinR@obcc.church.

The Cynic

Series: Resurrection Stories (msg 4) **Date:** May 8, 2022

John 2:12

Mark 3:20-21

Cynicism can be born from embarrassment.

Cynicism is aided by hurt.

- Mark 3:31–35

Closeness can breed cynicism.

- Mark 6:1–6
- John 7:5
- James 2:1
- Acts 21:18–20
- 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

The cynical are changed when they encounter the resurrected Jesus.