

## Small Group Guide: The Resurrection of Jesus

Based on Luke 24



---

### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for the resurrection of Jesus and asking the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to understand the significance of this event in your lives today.

---

### Icebreaker Question

What is something you've forgotten that, when reminded of it, completely changed your perspective or mood?

---

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The women came to the tomb in despair, not expectation** - They brought spices to anoint a dead body, not expecting resurrection.

2. **The imagery of the Ark of the Covenant** - Two angels standing on either side of the empty burial spot mirrors the cherubim on the Ark, representing God's presence with His people.
  3. **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"** - This question speaks to all believers: death no longer has power over us.
  4. **The importance of remembering God's Word** - The women and disciples needed to be reminded of what Jesus had told them.
  5. **Jesus expounded all of Scripture from Moses to the prophets** - Everything in the Old Testament points to Christ and His resurrection.
  6. **Physical resurrection** - Jesus ate fish to prove He was physically resurrected, not just a spirit.
  7. **The mission continues** - We are called to share this good news with everyone.
- 

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **Read Luke 24:1-12.** Why do you think the women didn't expect the tomb to be empty? What does this tell us about the human tendency to forget God's promises even when we've heard them clearly?
2. **The sermon highlighted the image of two angels on either side of the empty burial spot, comparing it to the Ark of the Covenant.** What is the significance of this imagery? How does it connect to God's presence being with us?
3. **In verses 13-35, Jesus walks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus but keeps them from recognizing Him.** Why do you think Jesus did this? What was He teaching them through this experience?

### Personal Reflection

4. **The disciples said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"** When has Scripture "burned" within you? Share a time when God's Word came alive in a powerful way.
5. **The women and disciples moved from despair to hope when they were reminded of Jesus' words.** What areas of your life right now feel marked by despair

rather than hope? How might remembering God's promises change your perspective?

6. **Jesus showed His scars to prove His identity and the reality of His resurrection.** The sermon noted that "the only things that are man-made in heaven are the scars on Jesus' hands and feet." What does it mean to you that Jesus kept His scars for eternity?

### Application

7. **The angel asked, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"** In what ways do we sometimes look for life, hope, or meaning in places where they cannot be found? What would it look like to seek the living Christ instead?
8. **Jesus opened the Scriptures to show how everything pointed to Him.** How can we develop a better practice of reading the Old Testament through the lens of Christ? What practical steps can you take this week?
9. **The sermon emphasized that "death has no power over us anymore."** How should this truth change the way we live day-to-day? How should it affect our fears, our priorities, and our relationships?
10. **Luke ends by saying the disciples were "continually in the temple praising and blessing God."** What does a life of continual praise look like in our modern context? How can we cultivate this attitude?

---

### Practical Applications

Choose one or two of these to commit to this week:

- **Memorize Luke 24:6-7** - Write it on a card and place it somewhere you'll see daily as a reminder that Jesus keeps His promises.
- **Scripture search** - Pick one Old Testament passage (perhaps from Genesis, Isaiah, or Psalms) and study it specifically looking for how it points to Jesus.
- **Share your testimony** - The disciples immediately went and told others about the resurrection. Share with at least one person this week how Jesus has brought you from despair to hope.
- **Practice remembering** - Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to remember and reflect on what God has done for you through Christ's death and resurrection.

- **Examine your hope** - Journal about where you're currently placing your hope. Is it in circumstances, people, or possessions? How can you redirect that hope to the risen Christ?
  - **Celebrate resurrection life** - Do something this week that celebrates being alive in Christ—serve someone, give generously, forgive someone, or simply spend extended time in worship.
- 

### **Closing Reflection**

**Read together:** "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"  
(Luke 24:5-6)

The resurrection changes everything. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have:

- Forgiveness of sins
  - Freedom from guilt and shame
  - Victory over death
  - Eternal life
  - A mission to share this good news
  - Hope that cannot be taken away
- 

### **Closing Prayer**

Have group members share one area where they need to move from despair to hope because of the resurrection. Pray for each person specifically, thanking God that death has no power over us and asking Him to help us live in the reality of resurrection life.

## 5 Day Devotional and reading Guide



### **Day 1: The Empty Tomb**

**Reading:** Luke 24:1-8

#### **Devotional:**

The women came to the tomb expecting death but found life. They brought spices for a funeral that would never happen. How often do we approach God with limited expectations, forgetting His promises? The angels asked a profound question: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Jesus had told them repeatedly He would rise, yet grief clouded their memory.

Today, reflect on the promises of God you may have forgotten in seasons of disappointment. What "tombs" are you visiting that God has already emptied? The resurrection reminds us that God's word is trustworthy—even when circumstances seem impossible. Let the angels' question challenge you: are you looking for life in places of death? Remember His words, and let hope return.

## **Day 2: The Ark and the Angels**

**Reading:** Exodus 25:10-22

### **Devotional:**

The Ark of the Covenant featured two cherubim facing each other with God's presence dwelling between them—the mercy seat where sacrificial blood was sprinkled. On resurrection morning, two angels stood on either side of where Jesus' body had lain. This wasn't coincidence; it was divine design. The empty burial slab became the ultimate mercy seat where the final sacrifice was offered and accepted.

The torn temple veil and Christ's resurrection declared that God's presence is no longer confined to a box carried by priests. Emmanuel—God with us—has made His dwelling in and among His people. Today, consider the profound reality that you are now God's temple. His presence isn't distant or restricted; it's intimately near. How does recognizing yourself as the dwelling place of God change your perspective today?

## **Day 3: Hearts Burning Within**

**Reading:** Luke 24:13-35

### **Devotional:**

Two discouraged disciples walked away from Jerusalem, their hopes buried with Jesus. Then a "stranger" joined them and opened the Scriptures, revealing Christ from Moses through the prophets. Later they exclaimed, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" God's Word has power to reignite dying faith.

Jeremiah experienced this burning when he tried to quit prophesying—God's word became like fire in his bones that he couldn't contain. When Scripture is opened and Christ is revealed, something ignites within the believer. This isn't mere intellectual stimulation; it's spiritual combustion. The disciples didn't recognize Jesus until He broke bread, reminding us that spiritual eyes need opening.

Are you experiencing that holy burning when reading Scripture? Ask God to open your eyes to see Christ throughout His Word. Let your heart burn again with the truth of who He is and what He's accomplished.

## **Day 4: Peace in the Midst**

**Reading:** Luke 24:36-43

### **Devotional:**

Imagine the scene: locked doors, fearful disciples debating resurrection reports, then suddenly Jesus appears saying, "Peace to you." His first post-resurrection word to His frightened followers was peace—not rebuke for their doubt, not disappointment in their fear, but peace.

Jesus showed His scars—the only man-made things in heaven. He didn't erase the evidence of suffering; He transformed it into eternal testimony. His glorified body still bears the marks of sacrificial love. This is crucial: our Savior understands wounds because He carries them forever. The hypostatic union—fully God and fully man—remains eternally. Jesus didn't just visit humanity temporarily; He permanently joined Himself to us.

Whatever troubles you today, hear His word: "Peace to you." His scarred hands offer peace that transcends circumstances. He's not a distant deity but the God-man who understands suffering and conquered death. Receive His peace.

## **Day 5: The Mission Continues**

**Reading:** Luke 24:44-53

### **Devotional:**

Jesus opened their minds to understand Scripture, revealing that everything written about Him in the Law, Prophets, and Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He commissioned them: proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all nations, starting in Jerusalem. The resurrection wasn't just for their comfort—it was the foundation for their mission.

Notice they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, continually praising God in the temple. They didn't retreat in fear but advanced with confidence. Why? Because death had been defeated. The worst thing that could happen—crucifixion of their Messiah—had been transformed into the best thing: salvation for the world.

You carry this same message. The despair of Friday is over. The grave is empty. Death has no power over those in Christ. This isn't just good news for you—it's good news to share. Who in your life needs to hear that their shame and guilt were paid for on the cross? Live today in resurrection joy and mission-driven purpose.