

Memory Verse

“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.’” (Luke 24:46)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. 2. The resurrection is the fulfillment of salvation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. 2. Jesus Christ is able to deliver us from eternal condemnation. 3. God gives us the hope of everlasting life. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Live a new life of righteousness. 2. Live not for us, but for the Lord. 3. Work for Him with diligence.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Luke 24: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus Rises from the Dead (vv. 1–12)
- B. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on the Road (vv. 13–35)
- C. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (vv. 36–49)
- D. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (vv. 50–53)

Life Application

1. If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin (1 Cor 15:17–19).
2. When we experience doubts or fears, Jesus is walking alongside us.
3. We have been given a great commission, so let us equip ourselves to preach the gospel.
4. As Christians, we have joy and hope in knowing that Jesus will return.

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We are justified by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 4:25). Without His resurrection, we would have no hope of salvation (1 Cor 15:17–19).

Introduction

“He is not here, but is risen!” (Lk 24:6). After being crucified on the cross and bearing the burden of our sins, Jesus triumphed over death. The hour of darkness was over. Through appearing in person and teaching His disciples the Scriptures concerning Himself, our Lord Jesus removed their doubts and brought them joy, peace, and hope.

A. Jesus Rises from the Dead (Lk 24:1–12)

Let us begin by reading Luke 24:1–12.

From Sadness to Joy!

What do you notice about the changes in the emotions and feelings of those who discovered Jesus Christ’s empty tomb? Initially, they were “greatly perplexed,” and bowed their faces to the earth in fear of the two men in shining garments (vv. 4–5). They were filled with confusion, but the two men in shining garments reminded them of what Jesus had said, and they “remembered His words” (vv. 6–8). However, when Mary Magdalene and the other women shared the details of this encounter to the apostles, they “did not believe them” (v. 11). Only Peter took action by running to the tomb, “marveling to himself at what had happened” (v. 12).

What does Jesus Christ’s resurrection teach us about His death?

The Lord’s death is not a tragic ending but the accomplishment of God’s redemptive plan as prophesied in the Scriptures and by Christ Himself. Likewise, His resurrection demonstrated that, in accordance with His sovereign will, God has indeed conquered the power of sin and, in turn, death.

What lessons can we learn from His resurrection?

If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin (1 Cor 15:17–19). But His resurrection also offers other lessons for us:

1. His resurrection is crucial because it means that Jesus Christ is alive (Jn 14:6) and that He rules His kingdom (Ps 22:28). He is real.
2. The testimony of the women about Jesus’ resurrection seemed to be idle tales to the apostles, so they did not believe them. Later Jesus appeared to them and rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart (Mk 16:14). If we do not believe what others testify about Jesus’ word or promises, the Lord may be displeased with our unbelief.
3. Jesus Christ’s resurrection is for our justification (Rom 4:25). Death has been conquered. We, too, will be raised from death to live forever with Christ.
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ helps us find meaning and hope, even in times of trouble, tribulation, and tragedy (1 Pet 1:3).

B. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on the Road (Lk 24:13–35)

Let us continue by studying Luke 24:13–35.

The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel book that records this incident in detail (the Gospel of Mark briefly mentions the event in Mk 14:12). Luke presents to us a detailed and insightful account of Jesus appearing to two of His disciples: Cleopas and an unnamed disciple.

1. What were the two disciples discussing? How did they feel?

They were discussing the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, as well as the discovery of the

empty tomb. The two men were disheartened that Jesus Christ had not “redeemed” Israel in the way they thought He would, but instead had died on the cross (vv. 19–21).

- 2. According to the words recorded in verse 21, how did the disciples interpret the Lord’s death?**
They believed that His death was final. Their usage of “we were hoping” reveals that they did not believe He would be able to save them anymore.
- 3. What prevented them from understanding the meaning of the Lord’s death?**
Their foolish preconceptions prevented them from understanding the connection between Christ’s death and His resurrection. As a result, they were slow of heart in believing the prophecies in the Scriptures about Christ (vv. 25–26).
- 4. What remarkable action did Jesus Christ take, as recorded in verse 27?**
“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (v. 27). We may not know which specific Scripture Jesus Christ chose to teach the disciples, but we know that He taught them all “the things concerning Himself.” This included His death and His resurrection, as well as the reason why He needed to experience suffering and, ultimately, death on the cross. Their lack of faith in the prophecies prevented them from recognizing Jesus, even as He stood before them. Thus, Jesus Christ taught them the Scriptures, just as He had during His initial ministry.
- 5. When were the eyes of the two disciples finally opened?**
After Jesus Christ shared the truth of His word, they invited Him to stay with them, for it was late in the day. As they sat at a table together, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. In that instant, “their eyes were opened and they knew Him” (v. 31). Once their hearts were nourished by the word of God, their hearts burned within. And once they received Him into their place and had fellowship with Him, their eyes were opened.
- 6. Why did Jesus vanish from them after their eyes were opened?**
Once their eyes were opened because of the truth, there was no need for the physical presence of Jesus Christ. It became a matter of faith, for we must live by His word in faith, not by our ability to see Him physically. “Jesus said [...] because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (Jn 20:29).
- 7. What is the meaning of verse 32: “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” What did the disciples do after saying this?**
When we have fellowship with God, either through prayer or reading the Bible, He will touch our hearts and open our eyes. Their interaction with Jesus Christ had stirred up something within them, and they were excited to testify and share the good news. “So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, ‘The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’” (vv. 33–34). After they had been with Jesus, they had an amazing response!

The interaction the two disciples shared with Jesus holds a few teachings for us:

1. The two disciples’ physical eyes were blinded to His true identity. Thus, Jesus taught them all the things in the Scriptures concerning Him so that they could first come to know Him. Likewise, we may not recognize Jesus, but we have to trust in His teachings and promises. Having the

knowledge of Jesus Christ and accepting Jesus Christ are two completely different things. We need Jesus to open our eyes spiritually.

2. The disciples had to study, understand, and trust the Scriptures before they recognized Jesus. Their spiritual eyes of faith were opened once they understood the Scriptures more and took of the bread that Jesus broke. “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (Jn 5:39). We have never seen Him, much less seen Him perform miracles as He did in His ministry on earth. But the whole Bible—both the Old Testament and the New Testament—has been given to us as a witness of Him and for Him.

So, it is imperative for us to study the prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus’ death and resurrection. When we study God’s word, He will be revealed to us and will walk with us as the resurrected Savior and Lord.

Life Application

1. Have there been times in your life when you were in doubt or despair?
2. Were you walking all alone? Or was there someone walking alongside you?
3. Did you pray to God with your spiritual friends or family members? How about reading the Scriptures to find more answers?
4. What finally made you realize that the Lord was with you? Can you testify about His presence in your life to others?

C. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Lk 24:36–49)

Next, we will read Luke 24:36–49.

This is the first time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. Notice how Jesus greeted them with the words, “Peace to you,” yet they reacted in fear “and supposed they had seen a spirit” (v. 37).

Why were they so terrified and frightened?

Keep in mind that the disciples had lost their hope after the Lord’s death and were perplexed by the report of His post-resurrection appearance. Then, out of nowhere, Jesus appeared before them. It is no wonder that they were frightened and terrified! This is precisely why Jesus introduced Himself with the calming phrase, “Peace to you.”

The peace from God calms our hearts and frees us from anxiety and fear. The disciples were troubled because they still had doubts in their hearts (v. 38). Therefore, the Lord brought them peace by removing their doubts and fears (*BSG: Luke, 7.3:11*).¹

Why was it necessary for the Lord to show the disciples that He was not a spirit?

It is interesting to note that Jesus asked the disciples to touch Him; He even ate in front of them. If Jesus Christ had not done these actions, then the disciples would have thought that the spirit of the Lord had returned from the dead. They still would not have been convinced that Jesus Christ had indeed risen physically from the dead (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:12*).

¹ TJC Department of Literary Ministry, “The Resurrected Christ”, *Bible Study Guide: Luke* (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/luke-31/, 7.3:11.

Ask God to Reveal His Teachings to Us

“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” (vv. 44–45), instead of simply proving Himself with miracles.

Only through understanding God’s sovereign plan in the Scriptures could the disciples understand the significance of the resurrection. Jesus Christ’s resurrection was not only a miracle, but the fulfillment of salvation. Our knowledge of Jesus Christ should not be built only on our experiences of healings or other miracles, but also on the teachings in the Scriptures. We need to ask God to reveal His will to us so that we can understand the mysteries of God in His word and come to a living faith in Christ (Mt 11:25–27; 1 Cor 2:10–13) (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:14*). Only then, after forming complete trust in God through understanding Him, can our faith be rooted in Him.

Jesus’ resurrection has a direct relationship with the great commission

Jesus Christ has entrusted this great commission to all of us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has received all authority in heaven and on earth and opened the way to salvation (Mt 28:18). We are His witnesses, so we have the responsibility of preaching this message of salvation to the entire world (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:15*). The main message of our preaching is based on verse 47: “and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Life Application

To preach the gospel, we first need to understand the Scriptures that contain the salvation of Jesus Christ. Second, we need the “power from on high” (v. 49), which is the power of the Holy Spirit. As recorded in Acts 1:14, they “all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” in the upper room, until they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

D. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (Lk 24:50–53)

Finally, we will conclude by reading Luke 24:50–53.

It is difficult to imagine this painful parting with the Lord Jesus as He was carried up into heaven. Many times, physical separation involves tears and sadness. Yet, verse 52 records the disciples as returning to Jerusalem “with great joy.” Why? First, they now knew that Jesus Christ had accomplished God’s salvation plan through His resurrection, so there was hope of everlasting life for them. Second, He will return! Just as He was taken up into heaven, in the same manner He will come down from heaven. We will be reunited with the One we love in heaven one day (Lk 21:26; Acts 1:11; 1 Pet 1:8).

Life Application

How has the resurrection of Christ brought joy in your life?

Jesus is alive, and He is with us. The same Jesus who spoke and ate with the disciples after He had risen is also with us every moment of our lives. Even though He has ascended to heaven, He is present in every space and time. He is our comforter, our healer, our strong tower and refuge! His resurrection gives greater meaning to suffering and death. Let us read Romans 8:19–25.

Check for Understanding

1. **Why is Jesus Christ's resurrection important for us?** If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin.
2. **What prevented the two disciples from recognizing Jesus Christ, who stood before them?** The two disciples were slow in believing the prophecies in the Scriptures about Christ. They did not completely understand the Scriptures, so Jesus Christ taught them about all the Scriptures concerning Him.
3. **Why was it necessary for the Lord to show the disciples that He was not a spirit?** Jesus Christ asked His disciples to touch Him and even ate in front of them. He did this to prove that He had physically risen from the dead. Otherwise, the disciples would have thought that only His spirit had returned from the dead.
4. **What did Jesus Christ promise to send to the disciples?** He promised to send them power from on high, the Holy Spirit.
5. **Why did the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy after Jesus Christ ascended to heaven?** After seeing Jesus Christ in person, risen from the grave, they knew God's salvation plan had been accomplished through His death. There was hope of everlasting life for them.

Memory Verse

"Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.'" (Luke 24:46)

Meanings

1. Jesus had to suffer because He was the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). His physical torture was part of the payment required for our sins. We have been bought by the "precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet 1:19). "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb 9:22). It was on the cross that He triumphed over Satan, sin and death.
2. Jesus Christ's resurrection is highly crucial to our faith. It offers us eternal hope since He has conquered death (Rom 8:11). His resurrection is one of the truths upon which Christianity is built (1 Cor 15:3-4).

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

(1 Cor 15:14-19)

Conclusion

Jesus Christ's resurrection is at the heart of the gospel message and a crucial step in God's redemption plan. Overcoming His death was as crucial as His death itself. Had Jesus remained deceased, He would not have overcome death, and we, in turn, would perish with no hope for any life to come. The Bible tells us that Jesus' followers would be the most pitiful of all people if Jesus never resurrected (1 Cor 15:17, 19). Resurrection does not simply mean we live a new life or change our worldly ways. Rather, on

the last day, our physical body will actually resurrect or be transformed into a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:51–53; 1 Thess 4:14–18).

Knowing that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, we must live a new life of righteousness with Him (Rom 6:8–13). We should not live for ourselves but for our Lord (2 Cor 5:15) and work for Him with diligence, knowing that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58).

Lesson 12 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer and rise from the dead?
He had to suffer because He was the "Lamb of God," and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. His resurrection was crucial because it proves that Jesus has conquered death and gives us eternal hope.
2. What does Jesus Christ's resurrection teach us about His death?
The Lord's death is not a tragic ending but the accomplishment of God's redemptive plan, as prophesied in the Scriptures. His resurrection also demonstrated that Jesus Christ has conquered the power of sin.
3. What did Jesus Christ do when He appeared before Cleopas and the unnamed disciple?
He did not reveal who He was, but instead taught them from the Scriptures why His suffering was necessary and what His death accomplished. He made sure they understood the prophecies before revealing His identity.
4. Why were the disciples terrified when Jesus appeared? How did He ease them?
They were terrified because they still had doubts and fears. Jesus eased them with His simple words of "peace to you," and also by removing their doubts and fears by proving His resurrection when eating and drinking with them.
5. Do you have any doubts today? How do you think you can relieve these doubts?
Personal answers. (Examples: By praying more about my doubts; by reading the Bible more to remind myself that God is in control; by focusing more on what to do for God rather than on an uncertain future; by constantly reminding myself that God takes care of even the sparrows in the air; by practicing the word of God to experience a living faith)
6. There is nothing more important than spiritually training and equipping ourselves. Try setting a goal for yourself for the next quarter that will help you better train and equip yourself for God's work.
*Personal answers. Encourage the students to think of personal habits, such as laziness or lack of self-control, or personal skills, such as helping with the younger children or playing piano. Other examples may be paying better attention during service, memorizing more Bible verses, or even trying to spend more time getting to know other church members.
If possible, check their progress on this goal periodically throughout the next quarter.*