

1. Motivate

What are some things once thought impossible that have become a reality?

An intro video is available. Watch it at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_6nceqvgl

2. Transition

Maybe you thought it would be impossible for someone you know to get their life straightened out.

- New life *is* possible when we trust in the risen Christ.

3. Bible Study

3.1 The Empty Tomb Gives Proof

Listen for John's response.

John 20:3-9 (NIV) So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

What prompted Peter and John to go to the place where Jesus had been buried?

What did Peter see, and how does he appear to have responded to what he saw?

How did the other disciple, John, respond to what he saw?

How do you think John's *seeing* was different from the Mary's and Peter's *seeing*?

What obstacles can keep people from fully *seeing* the reality of the resurrection and its implications?

How does the empty tomb give us hope?

Consider elements of our faith that we *believe* but *don't fully* understand ...

- The Trinity
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- *Why* God would love us enough to die for us
- The *how* of creation and the universe
- The *when* of the Second Coming of Christ

⇒ It is entirely possible to place your faith in trust in Jesus by believing in His death and resurrection *without* fully understanding the theology regarding salvation

3.2 Jesus Proved He Is Alive

Listen for events of Jesus' first reappearance.

John 20:19-23 (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

How soon after His resurrection did Jesus appear to His disciples?

Why do you suppose they were gathered together?

When kinds of situations might cause *us* to experienced doubts and questions about our faith?

If you had been in that room with the disciples, how might you have reacted when Jesus appeared?

Jesus greeted them with "Shalom" ... "Peace be with you". How has Jesus brought peace to your life?

What was the nature and scope of the mission He gave them (and *us*) and what preparation has He given?

3.3 Believing Is Seeing

Listen for Thomas' revelation.

John 20:27-29 (NIV) Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

How was this appearance different from the first? What did Jesus invite Thomas to do?

Do you consider Thomas a skeptic or an honest searcher?

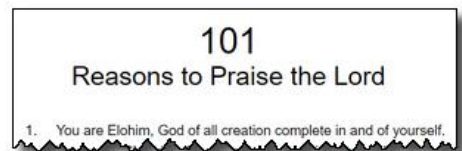
Skeptic	Honest Searcher

None of us have seen Jesus physically. What do we learn from the response of Thomas?

Thomas wanted a personal, firsthand experience and got it. What kind of firsthand experience can we have with the risen Jesus?

Thomas doubted, even though he was with Jesus for 3 years. How should *we* deal with our doubts about Christianity?

Consider meditating on [101 Reasons to Praise the Lord](#)



Application

Trust.

- If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, give your life to Him now.
- Talk to your Bible study leader or read the inside cover of this book.

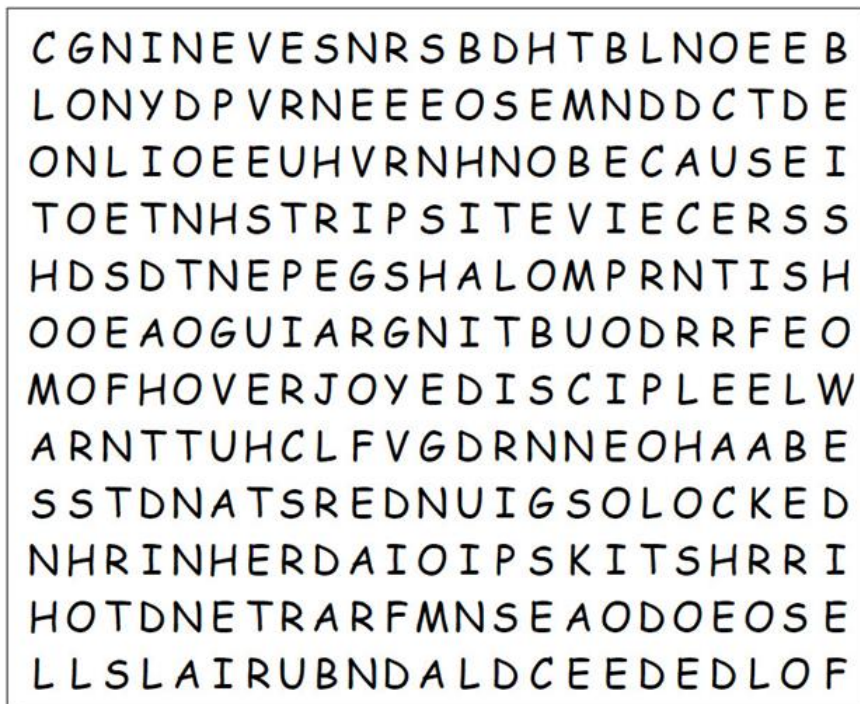
Prepare.

- Write out your testimony of how you came to trust in Christ.
- As you write, take note of how Christ has given you a new life.

Proclaim.

- Identify someone in your life who has not trusted Christ.
- Invite the person for coffee or lunch and have an intentional gospel conversation with him or her.

Word Search Puzzle



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| AMONG | LOOKED |
| BECAUSE | LORD |
| BELIEVED | OTHER |
| BLESSED | OUTRAN |
| BREATHED | OVERJOYED |
| BURIAL | PEACE |
| CLOTH | PETER |
| DISCIPLE | REACHED |
| DOORS | RECEIVE |
| DOUBTING | RUNNING |
| EVENING | SCRIPTURE |
| FATHER | SENDING |
| FEAR | SHALOM |
| FIRST | SHOWED |
| FOLDED | SIDE |
| FORGIVEN | SPIRIT |
| HANDS | STOP |
| HOLY | STRIPS |
| INSIDE | THOMAS |
| LINEN | TOGETHER |
| LOCKED | TOMB |
| | UNDERSTAND |

Well, Happy Easter ... This is the best celebration all year long for we who believe. Meanwhile, you have some words to look for! Humph! No candy or eggs for you if you don't figure out these words. They go left to right, right to left, up, down, and diagonal. The Easter Bunny won't be any help, that's for sure. Humph! And there's more good Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/3dp5kbwr>

