

## Luke 24

### *Looking For The Living*

#### **Study Summary and Learning Objectives**

In this study we will be looking at sections of Luke 24 and examining the account of Jesus' resurrection and His subsequent interactions with His followers. We'll also explore what His defeat of death means for our lives. We'll talk about how Scripture points to Jesus as the source of life and how we sometimes look for life in other places.

#### Objectives

- He has risen! And yet we sometimes look for life among things that are not living. Why?
- Explore how we sometimes lose sight of the Gospel for our busy lives and how "remembering" is an important aspect of our Christian walk.

#### **Steps To Prepare (For Leaders)**

- Read all of Luke 24.
- Think about areas of your life where you seek validation or self-worth and be prepared to share how those things interrupt your relationship with God.
- Be prepared to share about how remembering God's Word and promises or reminding yourself of these things through Scripture has led you to hope and joy.

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**Pray for your time together as a group.**

**?** Have you ever forgotten something really important? What was it? (e.g. an important date, locker number, meeting, your own birthday, etc.)

*Leader's Note: This is just to get the group talking and get juices flowing for conversation. It can be lighthearted or more serious. Consider your group's personality before choosing to use the question or not.*

#### **Read Out Loud: Luke 24:1-35 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us.

They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

### **Ancient Burial Practices**

A rich man like Joseph of Arimathea probably would have had a tomb that was carved into solid rock. The tomb would have had a small entrance and perhaps one or more compartments where bodies could be laid out after being somewhat mummified with spices, ointments, and linen strips. Traditionally, Jews would be placed in a small stone box called an ossuary, which would remain in the tomb with the remains of other buried family members. The door to the tomb was likely made of a heavy, circular-shaped stone, which ran along a groove in the ground, and would have taken several men to move. This was done to ensure that no one would disturb the remains.

The issue of the guards is debated, but it's possible that the men who stood guard at the tomb were a sixteen-man Roman military unit, which would have been governed by very strict rules. Each member was responsible for six square feet of space, and the guards could not sit down or lean against anything while they were on duty. If a guard fell asleep, he was beaten and burned with his own clothes, and then executed, so these guards would have been highly motivated to make sure that no one tampered with this tomb.

*For more information:*

- Pastor Steve's Easter 2015 Sermon: <http://www.hopecc.com/sermons/raised/>
- *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, Kreeft & Tacelli
- <http://www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/guard.html>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolen\\_body\\_hypothesis#The\\_guard\\_at\\_the\\_tomb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolen_body_hypothesis#The_guard_at_the_tomb)

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### Questions For Discussion

? Angels announced the birth of Jesus, (Luke 2:8-15) and now we see them announcing His resurrection. The announcement of His birth was made to a few humble shepherds; His resurrection was announced to a few women. Do you see any similarities? Why do you think God chose to announce the most important events of Jesus’ life to these kinds of people?

*Possible Answer: During Jesus’ ministry He seemed to seek out those who were less fortunate and those who were considered of a lower caste. Scripture highlights this, as even during Jesus’ birth and death the angels announce the good news to people who were less significant to society.*

? In verse 5, angels ask the women at Jesus’ tomb, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

How do you feel that we, as Christians, seek life from things that are dead?

*Possible Answers: We too often look for Jesus in the dead things - religious traditionalism, man’s rules, human effort, entertainment, relationships. We will never ultimately find Jesus in those things - we find Him only where there is resurrection life, when we worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

? How can we encourage one another to find our self-worth in Christ alone?

*Possible Answers: Accountability that points out when we’re slipping into believing lies, speaking truth to one another, emphasizing where our worth truly comes from.*

? After Jesus’ death, the disciples were in despair. How did Jesus’ revelation of His resurrection and reminder of His teachings help restore them to hope?

*Possible Answers: Remembering and believing brought the disciples from despair to joy! Focusing on the words of Jesus helped empower the disciples to align their hearts with God's will and wait expectantly while ministering to those in need.*

**?** Why is “remembering” Jesus’ teachings and promises important today?

*Possible Answers: Our day to day lives do not always highlight the ways in which God is working unless we are sensitive to seeing that work. We are more able to see that work if we are remembering, focusing on, worshipping because of, and meditating upon God's previous works. We, like the disciples, can be brought from despair to joy if we only remember and believe!*

**Read to the Group:** We don't know exactly which parts of Scripture Jesus pointed to when talking with His followers after His crucifixion, but we can see several places in the Old Testament that clearly point to Christ. Take a minute to look at each verse below and discuss how it reveals Christ. Remember that all of these passages were written hundreds –if not thousands—of years before Jesus' birth!

*Leader's Note: Depending on the makeup of your group and how much time you have left, consider breaking people into pairs to examine the following verses before coming back to talk as a large group. Or, consider finding verses on your own!*

**Genesis 26:2-4 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. <sup>3</sup> Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup> I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.

**Psalms 132:11-12 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath he will not revoke: “One of your own descendants I will place on your throne. <sup>12</sup> If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever.”

**Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**Isaiah 53:2b-5 (NIV)** He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**Zechariah 9:9 (NIV)** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**Read to the Group:** As seen in Luke 24:21, Jesus' followers thought that He "was the one who was going to redeem Israel," meaning they hoped He would start a revolution that would free them from Rome. When Jesus was crucified, their world was crushed and they thought Jesus had failed; however, their hope was fulfilled in a greater sense when Jesus redeemed them from sin and death.

? Have you ever felt let down by God, only to understand later that it was actually for the best? What happened?

? When facing future hardships, how might you be encouraged by "remembering" these personal moments where God was faithful in your own life?

#### **For Discussion and Application**

? Much like the men on the road to Emmaus, do you ever feel like you are blind to Jesus' presence in your life? How can remembering what He's done for you help you worship Him more fully?

#### Optional Personal Study

**Make a brief list of events in biblical history that God the Father and God the Son have called His people to remember.**

Do a word search in BlueLetterBible.com for "remember," and reflect on how remembering these passages can assist believers to deepen their faith in God and His faithful and omnipotent plans.