

WARM-UP

- Share about a time you took care of a pet. How was the experience?
- Tell us about a time you needed to use a gadget or appliance that you thought was broken, but it turned out alright. What happened?
- Have you ever received a second chance? Tell us about it.

WORD *⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen."* **LUKE 24:5,6**

(Read also **1 CORINTHIANS 15:17.**)

On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as the King He rightly is. A week after, He was crucified and died a horrible death on a cross. Three days after Jesus was crucified, He rose from the dead and showed Himself to His disciples before ascending into heaven. What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Without the resurrection, there would be no hope. Jesus' death would have had no meaning. He would simply have been a visionary and wise teacher who died. Jesus' death satisfied the justice of God, but His resurrection allows us to preach the good news and bring this hope to others. This is the joy we have in the resurrection. What are three truths about Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection?

1 | They were foretold in Scripture.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures . . .

LUKE 24:44,45

Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection were not an accident. They were foreordained by God. God's plans are far higher than our own, and though it seemed strange that the promised King should first be rejected and suffer before ascending to heaven, He opened the minds of His disciples to *understand the Scriptures*. In the same way, God has plans and promises for us that He will fulfill, and they may not happen in the way we expect. God will also open our minds to understand His Word and the lessons He teaches us. How must we respond to things we don't understand? What does Isaiah 55:8,9 say about the thoughts and ways of God?

2 | They were for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴⁶Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." **LUKE 24:46,47**

After the disciples' minds were opened to understand the Scriptures, Jesus repeated to them what was already happening in front of them. They had not seen it till He opened their eyes. Now Jesus was telling them clearly that because He had risen, people had a new hope. They could repent and their sins could be forgiven in His name. Jesus died and rose again so that all our sins could be forgiven. How has this changed the way you live?

3 | They are to be proclaimed to all nations.

⁴⁷“ . . . and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.” **LUKE 24:47,48**

After the resurrection, Jesus told His disciples that forgiveness of sins in His name should be proclaimed to all nations. Not only to Jews, but to all nations. Now that we have been given this new hope, the forgiveness of our sins, we must proclaim it to the nations and our community as well. In the name of Jesus, one can repent and be forgiven. How do you proclaim this good news to your community?

APPLICATION

- Do you want to receive the gift of forgiveness of sins that Jesus is giving you? Ask someone to pray this prayer with you today.
- Think of an area in which you need faith to see beyond circumstances. Pray about it and claim God’s promises.
- Write down ways that you can preach the gospel to your family, friends, and community. Do at least one of these things this week.

