

SEE FOR *yourself*

ENCOUNTERS WITH
THE RESURRECTED
Jesus



Welcome!

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything, for everyone, forever! See for Yourself, explores the risen Jesus, who he encountered, what he said, and why it all matters. As you work through this study, you will follow the storyline as it is presented in various places within your Bible (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20 - 21, Acts 1, and 1 Corinthians 15).

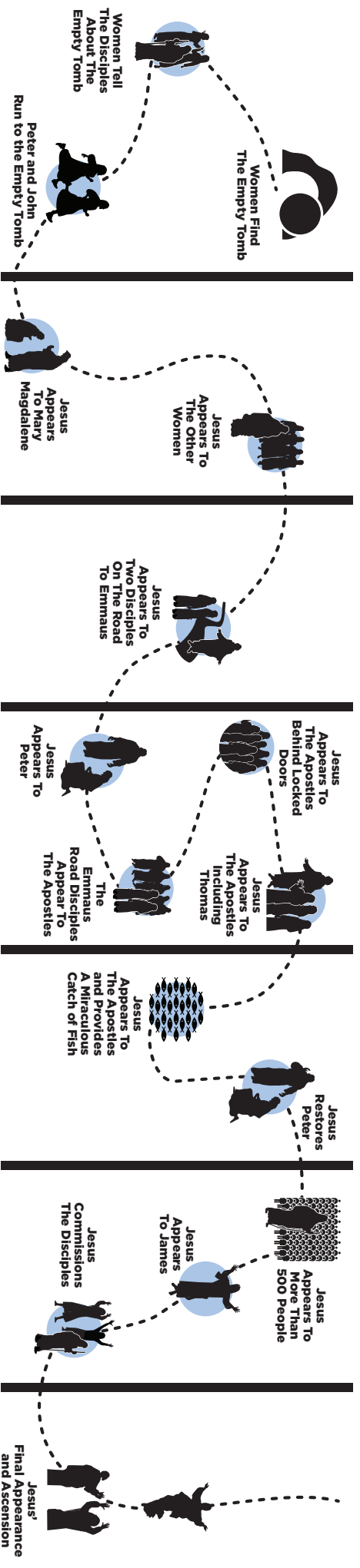
To get the most out of this study, use a journal or take notes directly in the guidebook to capture your individual thoughts, organize your ideas, express your prayers, and jot down questions. Over the next several weeks, we pray you encounter Jesus and enter the life he made possible the day he rose from the grave.





Timeline | From Resurrection To Ascension

The timeline shown provides an overview of Jesus' encounters with people between his resurrection and ascension. Throughout the study, we will explore these encounters individually and collectively to understand what they mean for our lives today.



Biblical References and Timeline

SESSION 1 | EARLY EASTER MORNING

1 Corinthians 15: 1-19
Matthew 28:5-7
Mark 16:1-8
John 20:1-10
Luke 24:4-6

SESSION 2 | LATER EASTER MORNING

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-40
John 20:11-18
Matthew 28:5-10
Mark 16:6-11
Luke 24:9-11

SESSION 3 | EASTER EVENING

1 Corinthians 15: 27-34
Luke 24:13-33

SESSION 4 | EASTER NIGHT

1 Corinthians 15: 41-44
Luke 24:33-49
John 20:19-23

SESSION 5 | THE SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

John 20:24 - 31

SESSION 6 | THE 40 DAYS BETWEEN THE RESURRECTION AND THE ASCENSION

John 21:1-22
1 Corinthians 15:3-7
Matthew 28:16-20
Acts 1: 3-11



SESSION 1

Timeline

Early Easter Morning

Biblical References

1 Corinthians 15: 1-19

Matthew 28:5-7

Mark 16:1-8

John 20:1-10

Luke 24:4-6

Summary

Jesus' friends, family, and disciples watched him die a criminal's death on Friday. Because of the Sabbath, they could not tend to his body on Saturday. Sunday morning, they discover that his tomb is empty. In this session, we will examine how what we believe about Jesus connects to what we believe about ourselves as we study the first eyewitness accounts of the empty grave.

LEGOS λέγω - to build, put in order, arrange

BLEPO βλέπω - to have sight, perceive (vs. 5)

THEOREO θεωρέω - look closely; theorize; hypothesize curiously - sort through understanding to make sense of what you see (vs. 6)

EIDON εἶδον - Look and understand; mental apprehension rather than visual sight, that is, as "I get it," "I understand," or "now I see it." (vs. 8)



Session 1 | Notes

*Jesus' past
resurrection
ensures my
future
resurrection.*



Women Find The Empty Tomb



Women Tell The Disciples About The Empty Tomb



Peter and John Run To The Empty Tomb



Session 1 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 2, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

Read John 20:1-10 as a group or on your own.

1. Different ways to “see.”

Looking back at the different definitions of “see,” where do you find yourself regarding the resurrection? Are you peeking in, theorizing, or are you in a place of believing and understanding? Why?

2. Living in a resurrection reality.

The truth about the resurrection changes our present and future realities. The disciples and women at the tomb knew that. In your opinion, how does the resurrection change how you view your past and future?

3. Consider the empty tomb.

If no one ever saw Jesus again and the tomb was simply found empty, what assumptions would you have about what happened?

4. Testimonies are powerful.

The testimonies of those who encountered Jesus after his resurrection were shared over and over and eventually written down to never be forgotten. There is power in sharing and remembering how God has shown up in our lives. Is there a testimony from your own life that you can share to encourage yourself and others in your group today?



SESSION 2

Timeline

Later Easter Morning

Biblical References

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-40

John 20:11-18

Matthew 28:5-10

Mark 16:6-11

Luke 24:9-11

Summary

There is a difference between hearing about Jesus and encountering him for yourself. God could have just sent the angels to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen, but instead, he allowed them to see Jesus for themselves. In this session, we will learn how, in the same way, God is inviting you to experience him for yourself.



Session 2 | notes



APPEARANCE #1
Jesus Appears To Mary Magdalene

*There is a
difference
between
hearing about
Jesus and
encountering
him for
yourself.*



APPEARANCE #2
Jesus Appears To The Other Women



Session 2 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 2, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

1. What lens do you experience Jesus through?

As followers of Jesus, we can have expectant faith that he wants to move in our lives. Do you live with expectant faith that Jesus wants you to encounter him? Why or why not?

2. Your testimony.

Have you ever struggled to share your testimony? if so, why? Or, why are you excited about sharing your testimony?

3. Jesus appeared to those who wouldn't be believed.

How does it make you feel that Jesus first appeared to the women, who would have been considered "the least of these" in their day?

4. What kind of Jesus are you looking for?

Mary was looking for a dead Jesus, a broken Jesus, a stolen Jesus, but not a resurrected Jesus. Are you looking for a dead Jesus that you don't expect to move or an alive Jesus that is actively working in our world & your life today?

5. Mary didn't recognize Jesus till he said her name.

Do you believe God speak to you? What are some different ways you recognize God's voice in your life?



SESSION 3

Timeline

Easter Evening

Biblical References

1 Corinthians 15: 27-34

Luke 24:13-33

Summary

Jesus joins a group of travelers going to Emmaus. As they walk, he begins retelling them their history. Starting with Moses, he shows them how each story points to the resurrection. The same is true in our lives. When we encounter Jesus, he redefines our history. Allowing us to look back and see that he was always with us.



Session 3 | Notes



APPEARANCE #3 **Jesus Appears To Two Disciples** **On The Road To Emmaus**

*Embrace your
disappointment
so God can
meet you in it.*



Session 3 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 3, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

1. What are the watches in your life?

What are the things that capture your attention & take your eyes off of the six-million-dollar inheritance you have in Jesus?

Read Luke 24:1-21 as a group or on your own.

2. Uncovering feelings of lost hope.

The two men on the road to Emmaus had lost hope. The redeemer of Israel was dead. Share what you think it must have been like for these men to lose hope in Jesus.

3. Dealing with the disappointment behind lost hope.

How do you experience people dealing with the disappointment of lost hope? Is there anything you have lost hope for in your own life?

Read Luke 24:22-32 as a group or on your own.

4. Recognizing the goodness of God in our lives.

"Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." - Jesus had been talking about himself all day, but they did not recognize him until he broke bread just like he had in the upper room. Has there been a time in your life your "eyes were opened" and you realized God has been there working all along?



Personal Reflection | Sessions 1-3

Recall Jesus' first three appearances. Which of these do you most identify with and why?



SESSION 4

Timeline

Easter Night

Biblical References

1 Corinthians 15:41-44

Luke 24:33-49

John 20:19-23

Summary

This week, we find the disciples locked in a room, mourning their friend. Jesus appears to them and speaks peace over them. Whatever you are facing, worried about, or going through, Jesus offers you the same peace.



Session 4 | Notes



**The Emmaus Road Disciples
Report To The Apostles**



**APPEARANCE #4
Jesus Appears To Peter**



**APPEARANCE #5
Jesus Appears To The Disciples Behind Locked Doors**

*Peace for
your past
and peace for
your future.*



Session 4 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 4, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

Read John 20:19 – 23 as a group or on your own.

1. What are you afraid of?

What keeps you “locked in a room” where you need God to bring his peace?

2. Peace be with you.

Jesus promised the disciples peace for their past and peace for their future. He helped define their past in him while giving them the power to accomplish the future he has called them to. What would be different in your life if you had peace in those areas?

3. Mourners into missionaries.

Is there a time in your life when you walked through a difficulty that is now a story you tell of God’s goodness?

4. Grieving friends.

Does it change how you read these accounts when you understand the disciples were grieving a friend? How do you think of Jesus – a friend who is God or God who is a friend?



SESSION 5

Timeline

The Sunday After The Resurrection

Biblical References

John 20:24-31

Summary

Thomas returns to the house the disciples were staying in to hear that everyone had seen the resurrected Jesus. Thomas hears about their encounter but says he has to see for himself to believe. One week later, Jesus appears to him and says something no one expected—that those of us who haven't seen him in person and yet believe are the blessed ones.



Session 5 | Notes



APPEARANCE #6 **Jesus Appears To The Disciples,** **including Thomas**

*Then Jesus
told him,
"Because you
have seen me,
you have
believed;
blessed are
those who have
not seen and
yet have
believed."
John 20:29*



Session 5 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 5, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

1. Reflect on the exercise of sitting in God's presence.

What was that experience like for you? Did you feel anything physically? Did you hear God speak something to you or see any images? If you did not feel anything this time, that's ok! How can you practice posturing yourself throughout your day to hear from God?

Read Romans 8:11 as a group or on your own.

2. Unpacking the present power of our future resurrection.

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." How does the present power of our future resurrection change how we live?

3. Helping others' unbelief.

Jesus appeared to Thomas one week after he appeared to the other disciples. Imagine what that week was like for the disciples and Thomas. Do you think the disciples tried convincing Thomas that they had really seen Jesus? How might that affect the other disciples when Thomas didn't believe? How might that have affected Thomas?

4. Revealing our own doubts.

Have you ever felt left out or stopped believing because you haven't experienced the same things as others like Thomas?

5. Inviting Jesus' presence into our everyday lives.

Jesus came back for Thomas so he could see for himself. When Jesus came near, Thomas didn't need to put his hands in Jesus' hands, he just needed his presence. Where do you need Jesus' presence in your life?

6. Remembering.

Sometimes we struggle when what is true no longer feels real. We know the truth, but like Thomas and others, the reality is hard to embrace. The antidote is remembering. What is one thing you are struggling to believe is "real" today that you need to remember? It might be God's love for you, his protection, his healing, or his goodness.



SESSION 6

Timeline

The 40 Days Between The Resurrection And The Ascension

Biblical References

John 21:1-22

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 1: 3-11

Summary

In this final week of the study, we look at the remaining encounters Jesus had during his 40 days on earth. We see Jesus' heart for hospitality and how he invites us to partner with him. We are invited to look to the end and allow our future resurrection to change our present reality.

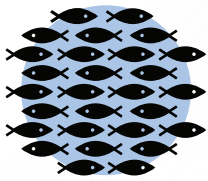
AGAPE αγάπη - Selfless, sacrificial unconditional love

PHILEO φιλέω- brotherly love shown in close friendship



Session 6 | Notes

*Jesus
prepared the
table for them
in the middle
of the mess*



APPEARANCE #7
**Jesus Appears To The Disciples And
Provides A Miraculous Catch Of Fish**



Jesus Restores Peter



APPEARANCE #8
Jesus Appears To More Than 500 People



Session 6 | Notes



APPEARANCE #9
Jesus Appears To James



APPEARANCE #10
Jesus Commissions The Disciples



APPEARANCE #11
**Jesus' Final Appearance
And Ascension**



Session 6 | Discussion Guide

As you process Week 6, explore what God is doing in each of your hearts. Share what stood out to you in the video and anything God is speaking to you. Use the questions below in group discussions or to reflect on your own.

Celebrate Communion as a group together. This is part of remembering what is true to make it real in your everyday lives. Communion gives us the encounter with Jesus.

1. Translating our belief into action.

The disciples knew Jesus was resurrected but continued hiding in their old careers instead of engaging in the mission Jesus called them into. Why do you think their experiences with the resurrected Jesus failed to change their actions? Are there places where you are currently hiding from what God wants you to do?

2. Praying for those we love to encounter Jesus.

In John 21:14, Jesus appeared to his disciples for a third time after he was raised from the dead. We see in these verses that he was a frequent visitor, pursuing his disciples often. Just because you (or someone you love) have not responded to God doesn't mean he will give up. Who in your life are you praying for Jesus to encounter personally? Take some time and pray for those individuals.

3. Identifying a need for healing and reconciliation.

Jesus intentionally sought out Peter for reconciliation. Are there places where you need to seek God for reconciliation with him or others?

4. Learning how God's presence leads to peace.

How has pursuing God in a difficult situation helped you experience forgiveness and/or peace?



5. Meditating on the “what-ifs.”

Imagine if Jesus lived, taught, performed miracles, was crucified, and never resurrected. How do you think this would impact our response to his teachings? How would that change the hope you have in Jesus?

6. Sharing revelations of Jesus’ resurrection, appearances, and ascension.

How does believing in a bodily resurrection and seeing the number of times that Jesus appeared to people change how you relate to Jesus today?

Personal Reflection | Weeks 4-6

Reflecting on the past six weeks of learning more about the time between Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, how have you “seen for yourself”? What are three things about Jesus you will take away from this study to share with others?

