



## THE EMPTY TOMB | John 20:1-18

→ **QUESTION:** Why would any intelligent, educated, modern-day person believe that someone actually rose from the dead?

→ **ANSWER:** Evidence!

### EVIDENCE BACKING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- (1) There was an EMPTY TOMB
- (2) There was a ROMAN SEAL on the tomb
- (3) There was a ROMAN GUARD posted outside
- (4) The tomb had a HUGE STONE in front of it
- (5) Numerous POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES to hundreds of people
- (6) Many resurrection WITNESSES WERE MARTYRED for holding to their story
- (7) The resurrection was PROPHESED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
- (8) JESUS PREDICTED IT WOULD HAPPEN many times
- (9) There is STILL A BELIEVING CHURCH around the world
- (10) The DAY OF WORSHIP CHANGED from Saturday to Sunday
- (11) The practice of SACRIFICE CHANGED
- (12) UNIQUENESS of the life OF JESUS
- (13) Millions of CHANGED LIVES
- (14) The presence of EMPTY BURIAL CLOTHES
- (15) The EXPERIENCE of MARY MAGDALENE

## BELIEVING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_

- Christian faith is not a blind leap into “easy-believism”
- Greek word translated “saw” in John 20:6 is “theoreo” (as in “theorize”)
- “Theoreo” means to \_\_\_\_\_ something \_\_\_\_\_ looking for an \_\_\_\_\_
- Christian faith is obviously more than reasoning and thinking, but it’s not less (John 20:30-31)
- **QUESTION:** How much evidence do you need to believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead?

## BELIEVING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_

- Jesus’ post-resurrection revelation of Himself to Mary Magdalene was gentle, merciful & very personal
- This story of the risen Jesus meeting Mary is really the summary of the whole Bible
  - ❶ God has to reveal Himself to us because our hearts & minds are \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❷ Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_

*PRAYER RESPONSE: Jesus, I am opening the door of my life to You today. The evidence backing Your resurrection from the dead is extremely compelling & You are calling me to a full surrender. You are inviting me to fullness of life & that’s what I want. I know my sin is in the way, so please forgive me and wipe my slate clean. I believe You died for me and then raised back to life on the third day. So right here and now I am declaring you Lord of my life. Save me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. And please give me the gift of eternity in Your forever family. Amen.*



Prayer  
Engagement  
Study

Sunday, September 8, 2024 | Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor  
Creekside Christian Church

### Prayer

Begin your time by praying with one another. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides your time in conversation and community today.

### My Story

What was a major piece of evidence or eye-opening event that led you to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

### Digging Deep

1. Reflecting on Sunday's message, what highlight, insight or challenge has stayed with you this week?
2. As Christians, we believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a true historical event backed by a lot of compelling evidence. How comfortable are you in being familiar with this historical evidence and sharing it with non-believers? What types of evidence can you recall?
3. **Read John 20:1-10.** Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John were among the first to SEE the empty tomb. How does their eyewitness testimony provide evidence for the validity of the resurrection?

### Digging Deeper

4. Peter SAW the empty tomb (verse 5), and the Greek word for this is *theoreo*, which means to observe something intently looking for an explanation. Why is such theorizing or thinking rationally about the resurrection so important to our witness? How does Peter's "theorizing" about the tomb negate the grave robber theory?

5. **Read John 20:11-18.** An important piece of evidence for the resurrection comes from the eyewitness testimony of Mary Magdalene. During this time in history, her eyewitness as a woman would not have been deemed very credible. How does including Mary Magdalene's testimony in Scripture contribute to the veracity of the resurrection story? How does God's use of her testimony illustrate His heart for women in ministry?

6. Mary Magdalene had SEVEN demons cast out of her by Jesus (Luke 8:2). Interestingly, Jesus uses this same woman who was demon-possessed to be the first evangelist for the resurrection! What does this show us about God's ability (and desire!) to use all kinds of people for His kingdom? How would YOU have naturally received her testimony if you knew about her past? In what ways is God transforming your thinking about those different than you?
7. Imagine the emotions of the scene when the resurrected Jesus calls out to Mary by name (v.16). What is the power in having our Savior call us personally by name? Reflect on some ways the Lord has been very personal with you and then give Him thanks.

### Taking It Home

8. The Christian faith is based on rational historical evidence. How comfortable do you feel defending the faith based on rational evidence (also known as apologetics)? Come together as a group and share pieces of evidence for the resurrection with one another. Also share any biblically-based resources that have helped strengthen your "apologetic muscles."
9. When all seems lost, there is hope found in the empty tomb! How can we encourage one another to seek the resurrected Jesus during our times of struggle?

### Praying Together

As you close, pray that each person present would feel the love of our personal Lord and Savior. Ask the Lord for increased boldness to proclaim the truth of the gospel to those who have not yet heard. The tomb is empty! The Lord has risen!!