

5. In the chart below, list the witnesses to the death of Jesus and their reactions. (23:47–49)

Verse	Witnesses	Reactions
Luke 23:47		
Luke 23:48		
Luke 23:49		

► **Reread Luke 23:50–56.**

6. All four gospels mention Joseph, a member of the Council. What more do we know about this man?
23:50–51

Mt. 27:57

Mk. 15:43

Jn. 19:38–39

7. Even though Joseph “feared the Jews,” what bold³ step does he take during this tempestuous time that fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:9? (23:52–53; Mt. 27:58–60)

Burial

“When they laid Jesus into the new tomb... they kept the Romans from throwing His body on the garbage dump outside the city. Condemned criminals lost the right to proper burial, but God saw to it that His Son’s body was buried with dignity and love.”⁴

8. Jesus died in the afternoon on the day before the Sabbath, the Day of Preparation.⁵ The women who have come to Jerusalem with Jesus want more for their Lord than a quick burial. While the women would normally be preparing for a Sabbath meal, what are they doing on this particular day? (23:56)

► **Reread Luke 24:1–12.**

9. At dawn on the day after the Sabbath, the women go to finish Jesus' burial rituals. Why is their labor-intensive preparation unnecessary? (24:3, 6; Mt. 26:6–12)

10. What causes the women to move from wondering over the missing body to outright fear? (24:4)

11. What do the two heavenly beings say to explain what has happened to Jesus' body? (24:6–8)

What do they remind the women of? (24:7; see also Lk. 9:22; 18:31–33)

12. Take a moment to put yourself in the women's place. Imagine their grief and disappointment, their confusion, their fright, their joy at the news that Jesus is risen.

13. The women's report sounds crazy to the other followers of Jesus. Nevertheless, how does Peter respond? (24:12)

The Greek word translated in 24:11 as "nonsense" is a medical term for "the wild talk of the sick in delirium."⁶

14. As things unfolded following Jesus' crucifixion, there was much confusion and fear because as Luke says, "[t]he disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them" (Lk. 18:34). And remember they were in deep mourning having just seen their friend and Lord killed in the most gruesome manner. Nonetheless, prophecy **had** been fulfilled and Jesus' death **had** satisfied God's justice. Read Hebrews 10:19–25 below and underline the privileges Jesus' death has purchased for you. Take time to respond in prayer asking the Lord to help you enjoy the benefits of his sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:19–25:

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

¹ Frank E. Gaebelin, Gen. Ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary with the New International Version of the Holy Bible in Twelve Volumes*. Vol. 8 (Matthew, Mark, Luke) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 1045.

² Warren W. Wiersbe. *An Exposition on the New Testament Comprising the Entire "BE" Series: The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton: SP Publications, Inc., 1989), 276.

³ Mark 15:43.

⁴ Wiersbe, 277.

⁵ Exodus 16:23.

⁶ Norvel Geldenhuys. *The Gospel of Luke: The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1951), 626.