



## **“Resurrected!”**

Luke 24:36-49

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the resurrected Lord who pursues us, grows faith in us, and sends us to proclaim the good news of his resurrection!

### **Jesus pursues us to grow our faith in the fact that he is the resurrected Lord (36-43).**

In John 20:19, God’s Word tells us that the disciples not only were gathered in the room together, but also they were behind a locked door for fear of the Jews. If the Jews had hung Jesus on a cross, the disciples probably assumed that it was likely that this might be their fate as well. Moreover, because the body of Jesus was missing from the tomb, the Jews would have even more reason to want the disciples dead. So in fear, they were securely gathered, discussing all that had happened that day and still struggling to understand what happened to Jesus. In the midst of their secure and private party, Jesus entered the room. In the midst of their lack of movement, Jesus moved in on them. In the midst of their staying put, Jesus pursued them. The risen Lord Jesus pursued the disciples in order to grow the faith of the disciples in the fact that he was resurrected. Jesus wasn’t a ghost. He wasn’t just a spirit. Jesus was resurrected flesh and blood. This is why Jesus had them touch him and why he ate with them. His physical resurrection was critical in order to prove his victory over sin and death for his disciples and for you and me! To be a true resurrection, Jesus couldn’t be just spirit. He had to be flesh and blood, and he pursued his disciples to grow their faith in the fact that he was the resurrected Lord!

1. Why is sinful humanity often so slow to believe, even when God gives all the facts that are needed for faith in Jesus? What does this mean for the work of sharing Jesus?
2. Why is the physical resurrection of Jesus so important for us today?
3. What are the implications of Jesus’ example for the body of Christ today? How can we and should we pursue others to grow their faith in the fact that Jesus is resurrected?

### **Jesus uses his Word to grow our faith in the fact that he is the resurrected Lord (44-45).**

Now that Jesus had their attention, he began to teach them what they needed to know in order to truly understand the gospel and to truly understand his work in his death and resurrection. By using God’s Word, Jesus led them to understand who he was and what their purpose now was. Jesus pointed to passages throughout the entirety of the Old Testament in order to clearly build the case for his role as the suffering Savior of God’s people, possibly including passages such as Psalms 16:10, Psalms 22, and Isaiah 53. Most importantly, just as he did with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened their minds to understand the Word of God. God’s Word, combined with the powerful illuminating work of God in the minds of those who hear his Word, led to the disciples’ ability “to understand the Scriptures.”

What a beautiful picture of how God still works through his Word to grow understanding and faith in Jesus Christ. What a beautiful picture of how God still develops and firms up understanding and commitment to Jesus. Praise the Lord that the risen Lord Jesus still uses his Word to grow faith in the fact that he is the resurrected Lord!

1. Why do sinners need God to pursue them to truly understand and believe in Jesus? Do people need their minds opened to understand the truth of God's Word? What are some Scriptures that provide us with the answer to this question?
2. What are the implications of Jesus' example in using Scripture to lead people to faith? How can we use Scripture to lead others to understand who Jesus truly is? Discuss and share examples.
3. Use cross references and other study helps to identify and to review Old Testament passages that point to Jesus.

**Jesus sends us to be witnesses to the fact that he is the resurrected Lord (46-49).**

With his resurrection firmly established and his purpose clearly identified, Jesus moved on to what his resurrection meant for those who believed in him. For the disciples, who Jesus came to and revealed himself to, they were to be his witnesses. They had experienced Jesus, so they needed to be witnesses for Jesus. They were the ones who would tell others that Jesus was resurrected! They were the ones who would tell others that the death of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus was the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem sinners to himself. They would be the ones who would tell others that God's grace and forgiveness was available to everyone — from all nations — who will turn from their sins and turn to Jesus in faith. The mission that Jesus gave his disciples was God-sized! They were just a few men and women gathered in a locked room in Jerusalem, and Jesus was telling them that they would be his witnesses to the whole world! How? By the power of God they would be witnesses for Jesus to the ends of the earth, so Jesus told them to wait until they were "clothed with power from on high." Today, the risen Lord Jesus still commissions those who repent and believe in him, sending them to be witnesses to the fact that he is the resurrected Lord!

1. Read verses 46-49 again. There were a lot of things that Jesus could have talked to his disciples about, but what's the one thing that he focused on and talked to them about at this moment in the Gospel of Luke? What do these verses say about the significance of being a witness?
2. Why did Jesus talk about being a witness and about his mission to the world rather than focus on the personal issues, struggles, hopes, and dreams of each of his disciples in that moment?
3. How should these verses impact our view of the Holy Spirit? Do we emphasize the work of and the need for the Holy Spirit in our lives enough in the church today? If not, why not? Do we ever quench the work of the Spirit? If so, how?