

The Resurrection of Jesus

Introduction Activity

Which of the following activities are possible or impossible? Give them a try to find out!

- You can wiggle your ears
- You can touch your nose or chin with your tongue
- You can write a 6 whilst rotating your foot clockwise
- You can lick your elbow with your tongue
(watch some people giving it a go!) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odIXBczOto0>
- You can rise from the dead after three days

When Jesus was alive, he said this “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

Christians believe the claim that Jesus came back to life three days after he died and is still alive today with God in heaven! Christians believe this proves Jesus is the Son of God.



The Resurrection of Jesus

Where is the evidence?

Read through the Resurrection factfile sheet (at the end of this worksheet).

- 1) Imagine that you had to **prove** that the resurrection of Jesus really happened.
What evidence would you give to prove that it happened?
- 2) Imagine that you had to **disprove** that the resurrection of Jesus happened.
What evidence would you give to disprove that it happened?

Use your two pieces of evidence to complete the resurrection debate video that accompanied this worksheet.

Extension Activity

When Jesus was alive, he said this “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25

- 3) What do you think Jesus meant when he said this?
- 4) What might this show about what Christians believe?
- 5) What is your opinion about the resurrection of Jesus?

This lesson involves researching opinions that you may not agree with. That is fine. You don't need to agree with everything that Christians believe about the resurrection of Jesus, but you do need to understand why other people might hold those beliefs.

The Resurrection of Jesus

Fact File

The Resurrection Events

- **2000 years ago, there lived a man called Jesus who could do ‘wonderful things’.**
This was not just written about in the Bible but in other historical sources written by Romans and Jews
- **In the New Testament, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.**
“Why then, do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said I am God’s Son?” John 10:36
- **He died on the cross to bring forgiveness to everyone who believed in him.**
“For God so loved the world, he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life.” John 3:16
- **When he was alive, Jesus claimed that when after he died, he would come back to life. He said that anyone who believed in him would also be given eternal life.**
“Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.” John 8:51
- **Three days after his death, Jesus’ body had disappeared. It was never found.**
A number of people claimed to have seen Jesus walking around alive. Christians claim he is still alive today, living in heaven with God.

What happened to Jesus?

1. Jesus didn’t really die on the cross.

The Theory - Jesus didn’t really die but became unconscious on the cross and recovered in the tomb.

Evidence for/ against:

- Jesus was very badly mistreated in the Bible and was beaten, starved as well as crucified. As well as that, a soldier stabbed him in the side with his spear. Do we think Jesus could have survived that?
- In the Bible, a Roman Soldier declared Jesus was dead.
- After he was taken off the cross, he was wrapped in clothes and put in a tomb without food or water or clothes for three days. The tomb was guarded by soldiers.
- We have no records of what happened between Jesus’ death and his resurrection. Could someone have gone into the tomb to help him recover? What about the Roman Guards?

2. The disciples stole the body.

The Theory – Jesus’ body as stolen by his friends to make it look like he had risen from the dead. This theory was originally put forward in the Bible by the Jewish leaders

Evidence for/ against

- The Roman soldiers guarding the tomb claimed that the disciples had stolen the body.

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- The Roman Soldiers guarding the tomb also later said they'd been bribed by the Jewish leaders to say that.
- The Roman Soldiers searched for the body of Jesus but never found it.
- Roman Soldiers were guarding the tomb, could Jesus' friends have got past them to steal the body?
- Jesus' friends would look very silly if Jesus didn't come back to life because then they would have believed in someone who was a liar. Could this have been a way for them to not be embarrassed?
- Jesus friends all went on to be arrested and killed for saying Jesus had come back from the dead. Would they have done that if it wasn't true?

3. There was a mistake.

The theory – Because Jesus' friends were so upset that he had died, they went to the wrong tomb and made a mistake that Jesus had come back to life.

Evidence for/against this theory:

- The women had followed Jesus to his tomb on the night of his death: Luke 23:55-56.
- The Bible says that Jesus' friends were very upset and were visiting the tomb in the early morning when it might have been dark.
- If there had been a mistake, why didn't the authorities just go to the correct tomb and produce the body? They knew where it was because they had Roman guards at its entrance.

4. Jesus really rose from the dead.

The theory – Jesus proved that he was God's Son and came back to life.

Evidence for/ against this theory

- The body was never found
- Over 500 different people claim to have seen Jesus alive in the Bible. Jesus didn't hide but went to teach where other people could see him.
- Jesus had predicted he would come back to life.
- He wasn't seen by any of the Jewish Leaders after his resurrection.

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All Scripture Quotations are taken from The Bible: New International Version (UK) 2011.

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