

The Case of the Christ



Welcome back Detectives...

Bit by bit the evidence is building. Jesus didn't just claim to be God's king. He promised to rise again to life, three days after having died. The evidence of the empty tomb says he did! His words can be trusted. The Case of the Christ points to just that - Jesus is God's King.

But did anyone see Jesus alive? Another piece of evidence has come in which I need you to look at.

Here is your next assignment.

Signing off...

P.I. Paul

Opening Prayer

The Bible is God's word - so we need God to help us understand it!

Pray together

'Dear Heavenly Father, help us to know you better as we read this true story from the Bible now, and to love Jesus more. Amen.'

Challenge

God is a God who gives fun and life. So looking at the Bible can be fun too.

Give it a go

Get one person to think of a famous person in their head. They can be alive or dead, recent or not so recent. The others have to ask yes/no questions - that is question which the person can only answer yes or no to. You have 20 questions to try and work out the identity of the famous person they are thinking of. Then swap round. Questions could be things like: Are they a girl? Do they appear on television? Are they older? Have they written a book? Etc.

Read Bible Passage or Bible Story

Read Luke 24:13-33

Why not begin this passage in one room - then journey through to another room to complete it, like the men in the passage, on the Emmaus Road. You could get different people to read out the different parts.

Part 1

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognising him.

17 He asked them, '**What are you discussing together as you walk along?**'

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, '**Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?**'

19 '**What things?**' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

25 He said to them, '**How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?**' 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

(Do Chat it through Part 1 now, below)

Part 2

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. 29 But they urged him strongly, '**Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.**' So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, '**Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?**'

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, '**It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.**' 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Chat it through

It is really important we think about what it means - that is what God wants to teach us through it, and then what it means in our lives. But that doesn't need to be long or complicated.

Some questions to help - Part 1

- **What were the two men feeling like at the beginning of the passage? Can you pull a face to match how they were feeling?** (They were sad and downcast.)
- **Why were they feeling like this?** (They thought Jesus was God's king come to rescue. But then he died and now they don't think he is. Their hopes have been broken)
- **What evidence does Jesus give to show they should have known he would rise from the dead?** (The Old Testament - Moses and the Prophets is a shorthand way of saying this - had always said the Messiah - God's King - would have to die and then rise again!)

(Now read Part 2 of the passage above)

Some questions to help - Part 2

- **What other piece of evidence do the two men get that Jesus is alive?** (When they eat with Jesus they are reminded of the miracle he did - feeding 5000, or the meal he gave his disciples at the Last Supper. Either way - they now realise Jesus is alive in front of them!)
- **How do they feel by the end of the passage? Can you pull a face to match how they are feeling?** (Happy, excited!)
- **How does this evidence help you to trust Jesus as your King?**

Pray it through

The Bible isn't there just to teach us more things, God is wanting to change us through it. So we need to pray for his help, as well as other needs.

This week

Use your hand to pray! For each finger on your hand - each say a prayer for different groups of people - you can give thanks for them, or ask for help for them.

Thumb (people who are close to you) These are your close friends and family, often the first you think about when you pray.

Pointer (people who point the way) These are leaders in your life, such as teachers and ministers.

Tall Finger (people in authority) The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom to our government, military, and police.

Ring Finger (people who are weak) This is your weakest finger. We should remember others who are sick, live in poverty, or are treated badly. Pray that Jesus would give them new strength.

Little Finger (your own needs) God wants to hear your needs too, especially when you put others first.



NOW un pause the video on YouTube to continue...

Craft

Here are some things you could do today...

- **Pop up Road to Emmaus Craft** - https://amysfreeideas.com/English/pop-up_Easter_scenes_for_Sunday_school.html Scroll down to the 'Road to Emmaus' one - where you can download the resource.
- **Jesus Puzzle** - Print out the picture below - and cut out the pieces at the top into individual pieces. It looks a puzzle, you can't see what it is all about. Now try and rearrange the pieces - see if you can 'see Jesus' now - the answer is at the bottom of the picture!

