

SESSION TWENTY-THREE: What's the evidence that Jesus is alive? *Luke 24 v 13-35*
Quick, Slower and Full Route

1. Verses 19-21: They thought Jesus was a prophet (v 19), and, more than that, that he was the one who was going to redeem (ie: free) Israel (v 21). They had hoped he was the one all God's promises had been pointing to—but in the end he'd been sentenced to death and executed (v 21). All their dreams had come crashing down.

2. Because if Jesus is dead, then he isn't God's eternal Son and King, and we can't believe what he said as true. Have a look at 1 Corinthians 15 v 17-19, where Paul (one of Jesus' earliest followers) gives a great summary of how Christianity falls apart if Jesus isn't alive!

3. The women went to the tomb and didn't find the body; they said some angels had told them Jesus was alive; their friends had gone to the tomb and found it as the women described, with no Jesus.

Presumably they are still disappointed because they don't believe the women: they don't think Jesus really has risen. The evidence isn't enough to convince them (though it should have been!).

5. The Bible! He explains to them how the Scriptures (ie: the Old Testament) talk about Jesus (v 27), and how they explain that he had to suffer death and then enter his glory by rising again (v 26). "Moses" refers to the first five books of the Bible, which tradition says he wrote; the "prophets" refers to all the books written by (or about) the people God spoke through, the "prophets".

7. First, they are told by Jesus how the Bible points to his identity as the Christ, his death and resurrection (v 27, 32). Second, they see him break bread and share it out (v 30). The last time they would have seen him break bread was the night before he died (22 v 19—this is what Christians remember when they share the Lord's Supper), and it is this act that enables them to recognise Jesus for who he is. Third, when they see the other followers of Jesus, they discover that Jesus has also appeared to Simon (ie: Peter) (v 34).

If you're doing Session 24 together (ie: you're on the Full Route), have a look before you next meet at the "What next?" section on page 60. Hopefully, you've enjoyed looking through Luke's Gospel together, and this page helps you think about what you might want to do next.