

## He Is Not Here

*Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners.  
Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach.  
The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.*

**Introduction:** Those who had loved Jesus had watched Him face an excruciatingly painful and humiliating death. They watched and cried, but could do nothing. The women who had been with Jesus in Galilee even followed along as His body was carried to a burial chamber and placed inside. And, because of the lateness of the hour and the approaching Sabbath, they again could do nothing. So, at sunrise, when the Sabbath had ended, the women rushed to the tomb to do the one thing they knew how to do for Him . . . to prepare His body in death.

### 1. **Because Jesus was alive, His tomb was empty (Luke 24:1-12).**

- The women came to the tomb with burial spices, but found the entrance open and Jesus' body missing, and two angels asked why they were looking for Jesus' dead body (vv. 1-5).
- The angels proclaimed that Jesus had been risen from the dead, just as He had promised them, demonstrating that **Jesus Is God and Savior** (vv. 6-8).
- When the disciples heard what the women had found, they did not believe them, so Peter ran to the tomb to make sure and then left the empty tomb marveling about what had happened (vv. 11-12).

**Illustration:** Daniel Bennett wrote, "The women who loved Jesus were eager to express that love through caring for His body. But they found that their eagerness was outmatched by that of their Lord; arriving at the tomb 'at early dawn' was simply too late" (available online). Jesus had already left the tomb . . . alive!

### 2. **Because Jesus was not in the tomb, He appeared before His disciples (Luke 24:36-43).**

- Even though they had heard the news that Jesus was alive, His appearance still surprised and even frightened them (vv. 36-37).
- When Jesus encouraged them to touch His physical body, proving that their doubts were unnecessary, the disciples responded with joy and wonder (vv. 38-41a).
- Jesus further demonstrated He was physically alive by asking for food and eating (vv. 41b-43).

**Illustration:** Jesus had told the disciples what would happen to Him. And, even after they heard the news of Jesus' resurrection, they were still surprised when they met Him face-to-face. Larson and Ogilvie wrote, "We are not asked to believe the doctrine of the Resurrection. We are asked to meet this person raised from the dead" (p. 349).

### 3. **Because Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, He explained what was to come (Luke 24:44-49).**

- Jesus reminded them that everything He had taught before His crucifixion fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (vv. 44-45).
- Jesus explained that His death and resurrection had brought the forgiveness of sins in His name (vv. 45-46).
- Jesus proclaimed that the disciples were witnesses of all this and would receive power from God to be able to share what they had witnessed (vv. 48-49).

**Conclusion:** In his sermon *The Foundation of Faith*, Steven Cole asked, "If Jesus Christ is not risen from the dead, then He Himself was a liar, since He predicted His own death and resurrection on numerous occasions. Why believe in and follow a liar? If Christ is not risen from the dead, then His death on the cross did not secure the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus' resurrection was God's seal of approval on the sacrifice that Christ offered for all people so that Paul could rightly say, 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins' (1 Cor. 15:17).