

## **Resurrection Texts Activity: Was it Jesus?**

### **Instructions for Activity**

1. You may want to precede this activity with a starter, asking the students to identify how they can tell if someone is alive, and if they really are who they say they are, and not some computer generated hologram etc.

Preparation:

Photocopy each story in a different colour paper, so easy for students to identify which story they have/ haven't yet done.

2. Hand out the Resurrection Table that goes with the texts to each student. Also hand out one resurrection text to each student. This will be used to model the activity.

3. Explain that we will be finding out what made the disciples believe that it was Jesus, in the flesh, and not a ghost, or an impostor. This is important, because it shows that Jesus really did defeat death and came back as he was, with the same memories, habits and physical properties as before. Death had no power over him.

4. Ask students to read the text. Identify first what the person was doing when they saw Jesus. Brainstorm ideas about the moment when they realised that it was Jesus. What is it that he did or showed them, that persuaded them it was him. Get them to write this down in their table.

5. Tell the students they will now be doing the same thing on their own, with some other resurrection appearances.

Hand out enough copies of the stories so each group has at least one copy of all the stories, and there is a story available for each student.

Tell the students they will have 4 minutes to read each story, identify and write down the relevant info on their table. Have a buzzer go off every 4 mins.

6. Finish the activity and feedback after 12 mins.

## The Disciples

While they were in a house, talking to each other around about how Jesus had already appeared to some of the disciples, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and afraid, thinking they were seeing ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds about whether or not I am real? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."



When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. But they were so overwhelmed with joy and amazement that they still did not believe it. So He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of grilled fish, and he took it and ate it in front of their eyes.

**Where were the disciples when they met Jesus?**

**How did the disciples know that it was Jesus? (2 reasons) Complete your table.**

## Doubting Thomas

Now Thomas was one of the Twelve, but he was not present when Jesus appeared to all the disciples in the upper room. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" he did not believe them and said : "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger into the wound in his side, I will not believe it."



A week later his disciples were in the house again, and this time, Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**Where was Thomas when he met Jesus? How did he recognise it was Jesus??? Complete your table.**

## The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus



Two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus. As they were walking, Jesus came up and walked alongside them, talking to them about the meaning of the Old Testament, but all the time he was with them, the disciples didn't recognise him. As they approached the village, Jesus acted as if he were going to go on further. But they insisted: "Stay with us, for it is nearly dark; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. Then all of a sudden, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.

**Where were the disciples when they *recognised* Jesus? How did the disciples know it was Jesus??? Complete your table.**

## Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where they had put Jesus' body and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. She bent over to look inside and saw two angels sitting there. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." Then, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but *she did not realize* that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She recognised him then, and running towards him and cried out, "Teacher!" but Jesus said, "Go to my brothers and tell them - '*I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*' "

**Where was Mary when she met Jesus? How did Mary know it was Jesus??? Complete your table.**



## Jesus at the Sea of Galilee

Peter was at the Sea of Galilee with some of the other disciples. He said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come too," they all said.

So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn the disciples saw someone standing on the beach. This person called out to them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?" "No," they replied. He answered, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll catch some!" So they threw the net out and couldn't draw it back in, because there were so many fish in it.



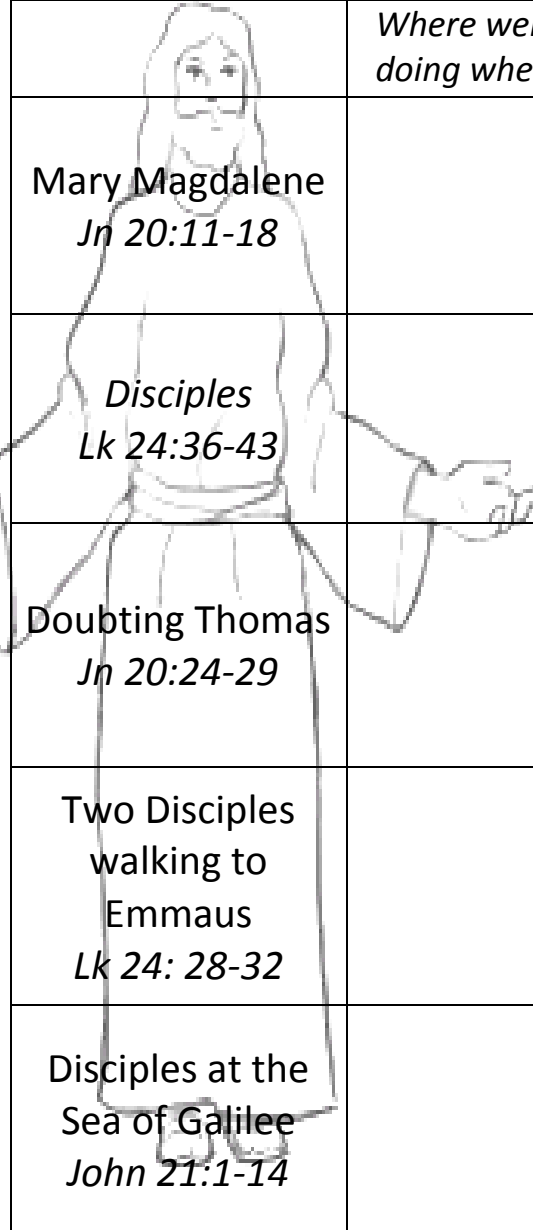
The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic back on, and jumped into the water. The others came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. When they reached the shore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish and bread.

"Bring some of the fish you have just caught," Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore, full of big fish. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn. Jesus said to them "Come and have breakfast." And no one dared asked him who he was, because they knew it was the Lord.

**Why do you think they knew that it was Jesus? Complete your table.**

# The Resurrection

	<i>Where were they &amp; what were they doing when Jesus appeared to them?</i>	<i>What made them believe it was Jesus?</i>
Mary Magdalene <i>Jn 20:11-18</i>		
<i>Disciples</i> <i>Lk 24:36-43</i>		
Doubting Thomas <i>Jn 20:24-29</i>		
Two Disciples walking to Emmaus <i>Lk 24: 28-32</i>		
Disciples at the Sea of Galilee <i>John 21:1-14</i>		

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