

Unit 33, Session 2: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29; Acts 1:3

Christ Connection:

PCC: God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many, many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today.

CC: God made Jesus alive again! For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to at least 500 people and proved that He is alive (1 Cor. 15:3-8). Jesus is still alive today.

Adult Connection Point: The good news is not only that Jesus died but that He rose and remains alive forever. Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that He has accomplished full salvation for His people, those who turn from their sins and trust in Him alone. But that's not the end of the story. Jesus sends out His people to let everyone else in the world know that He is alive and reigning forever, beginning in these passages with the first generation of disciples. We tell the true story about Jesus' rising from the grave because death does not have the final word. The motivation and strength, then, to go and tell this good news comes from truly knowing the risen Jesus and experiencing His life-restoring power.

The Great Commission is one of the most well-known passages of Scripture. Most of the time, we think of it as starting with "Go" in Matthew 28:19, but the word "therefore," also in verse 19, points back to the strong statement in verse 18 of Jesus' total authority in heaven and on earth. Let's take a look at the verses that come just before Jesus' command and why they matter:

The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:16-18)

Why is it important to remember Matthew 28:18? Because we only fulfill the Great Commission when we obey the Great Commander.

What is unique about this Commander is that Jesus' power empowers and Jesus' authority authorizes. He is unlike people in power who like to make their subjects feel powerless. No, this Commander invites His followers to experience His power—which is demonstrated in the giving of love.

Worshiping Jesus is a declaration of your high regard for the authority of Jesus. He is worth obeying. He is worth submitting to His Great Commission.

Materials: candle or flashlight

Direct your kids to lock all the outside doors. Gather them into a closed room in your house and lock that door, if possible. Turn off the lights and turn on your flashlight. Talk about how the disciples might have felt after Jesus died. Review the Bible story by telling it in your own words.

Ask: "What were some ways Jesus showed He was alive to the disciples?"

Recall how Jesus stood among them, talked to them, showed them the nail holes in his hands and side and ate fish with them. How delighted they must have been

to know Jesus was no longer dead but alive! Even though He had told them He would die then rise from the dead they now could see it with their own eyes.

Ask: "What were some things Jesus said to Thomas?"

Comment how Thomas did not believe the disciples when they told him they had seen Jesus. Even though the doors were locked Jesus appeared again to the disciples and told Thomas to touch his hands and side. Jesus wanted Thomas to believe like the rest of the disciples. Jesus continued to show Himself to the disciples and 500 other people after His death. Jesus proved to them that He was indeed alive!

Pray, thanking God that Jesus is alive today and that you can talk to Him. Pray for those who like Thomas want to see instead of believe.