

Jesus' Resurrection and the Response of the Disciples

Watch: <https://youtu.be/Ppb9bKX1r7k>

Read: John 20-21:19

Ask:

What did Jesus do? (apparently Jesus left his tomb! Jesus asked Mary why she was crying; he spoke Mary's name; he told Mary to tell the disciples that he will be leaving soon; Jesus appeared to all of the disciples, and showed himself to Thomas who didn't believe because he had not seen Jesus in person yet; he came in to a room even though all the doors were locked; he told Thomas to touch his wounds from being on the cross; Jesus told some of the disciples to try the other side of the boat to catch fish (and then they caught too much); Jesus made breakfast for the disciples; Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he loved him; Jesus said "follow me.")

How did the disciples and the people that were around react? (Mary was surprised that Jesus' body was not in the tomb; Mary told Peter and the unnamed disciple that his body was gone; both of the disciples raced to see the empty tomb; the unnamed disciple believed that Jesus was raised from the dead; both disciples just went home; Mary stayed by the tomb crying (maybe she still thought Jesus was dead); Mary was hugging Jesus when she realized that it was him who was speaking to her; she told all the disciples that Jesus was alive!; Thomas did not believe when others told him that Jesus was alive again; Thomas believed when he saw Jesus for himself; Peter and other disciples decided to go back to fishing; Peter's reaction was to quickly swim back to the shore when he say that Jesus was there; Peter was sad that Jesus asked him so many times if he really loved him.)

What do you think you can learn from this story? (Lots of the disciples kind of went back to their old job after Jesus was resurrected, while Mary stayed back and was still grieving. The disciples didn't know what to do anymore now that Jesus wasn't around all the time. We can learn from the disciples that it is normal to just want to do what is easy instead of following Jesus. That's what they did; they went back to what was normal because they couldn't see Jesus anymore! But Jesus told them that they still need to follow him, even when he is not with them with his visible body. We need to be careful to also follow Jesus, even though we have never seen him. And be patient when waiting for Jesus, like Mary was when she waited at his tomb. That act of following Jesus can be really hard sometimes – even the disciples had

Supplies (included):

- game board
- challenge cards

Supplies (not included):

- game token (example: button, chess piece, etc.)
- 1 dice

a hard time when Jesus wasn't visible with them. But Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed." (John 20:29) So Jesus is saying that you and me are more blessed than even the disciples because we believe in Jesus even though we haven't seen him yet.)

Lesson:

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples had to figure out what they were going to do without Jesus always being with them. Can you imagine what it would be like if someone you were best friends with were to just leave one day? It would be a difficult adjustment right? But the difference is that the disciples knew that Jesus was still with them in spirit – and he is still with us to this day!

Throughout the last few months you have been following along with Jesus and the disciples and the crowds who followed Jesus. You have been growing in your knowledge of what it means to follow Jesus, it doesn't mean being perfect, it just means slowly growing to be more like Jesus. Your plant has been growing too, and sometimes it might seem to be growing slowly, and other times quickly! Our growing to be more like Jesus can seem really slow sometimes as well, but it doesn't mean that we are not growing.

Activity:

Let's play a game! You have been learning a lot about Jesus and his disciples, and now we can see what we remember and what we learned!

You have a game of Cranium. On the game board are simple instructions for the game! Have fun!