

WE ARE WITNESSES

THE AIM: To realise that we must proclaim that Jesus is alive

The aim unpacked

Jesus appears to his followers, but they think he is a ghost! It seems they still aren't sure he has risen. Jesus explains the Scriptures to them and they finally understand what has happened. As well as convincing them that he is alive, Jesus entrusts them with the task of telling all nations about him. And we are charged with that same task.

WAY IN



theGRID MAGAZINE

WHAT: discussion

WHY: to think about things that are amazing but true

WITH: magazine page 315

- 1 Split the young people up into groups of three or four and give each group a copy of page 315.
- 2 Let the young people read and chat about the facts. Which ones do they think are truly amazing? Encourage them to share any knowledge that they may have on any of these facts – including the last one on Christianity.
- 3 Chat briefly about how, when you find out something truly amazing, you usually tell other people about it. Challenge the young people: 'Does anyone do that with the amazing fact that Jesus died and came back to life again?'



SCENE SETTER

WHAT: making a jingle or poster

WHY: to think about proclaiming a message

WITH: recording equipment, instruments (for jingle), sheets of paper, art materials

- 1 Depending on your group (their interests and talents), choose to make a jingle or a poster to proclaim a message. (If you have a large number of young people or diverse talents, you could split into smaller groups, each one doing their own poster or jingle.)
- 2 Tell the group what you are going to do, and ask them what message they would like to proclaim through their jingle or poster.
- 3 Give the group any help they need; encourage them to plan their poster or jingle before they start creating it.
- 4 Show or perform what the group has created! Ask: 'Was it easy to create something which told others your message?' Say that Jesus asked his disciples, and us, to tell other people his message.



THEMED GAME

WHAT: game

WHY: to think about telling others a message

WITH: small pieces of card, marker pen, pens, paper

- 1 Before the session, put together a list of simple messages. Get a mix of ordinary and stupid messages. Write the messages each on a separate piece of card.
- 2 Split the group into two teams (if you have a small group, play against the clock) and make them sit in two lines. Explain that you're going to play competitive Chinese whispers! Show the first person in each team the first message. They then whisper it to the next person in their team. The message is passed down the line and the last person writes it down. The last person then comes to you for the next message, which is passed down the line. The first group to write all the messages down is the winner, but you could choose to change the result if one team has more correct messages than the other!
- 3 Chat about how difficult it was to get the correct message all the way down the line. If you had an important message, would you tell others by whispering it?!



LEVEL 1: CONNECT

WHAT: cartoon

WHY: to realise that we must proclaim that Jesus is alive

WITH: magazine page 316, Bibles

- 1 Give out copies of page 316 and ask the young people to read the comic strip 'He's alive!' based on the events in Luke 24:36–49. Then, when everyone has finished, read Luke 24:36–49.
- 2 Explain that the disciples needed convincing by Jesus that it was him and that he was indeed alive. Do the young people need any convincing? This is a good way of finding out where your group are at with Jesus, but handle this discussion carefully – you may well have a diverse range of opinions!
- 3 Explain that Jesus called the disciples to be 'witnesses' – to tell others about his message of love and forgiveness – and we, as Christians, are called to do the same. Is this something that the group finds easy? Or do they want to hide away the message?



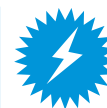
LEVEL 2: INTERFACE

WHAT: interactive dramatisation

WHY: to realise that we must proclaim that Jesus is alive

WITH: resource page 317, any props available, Bibles

- 1 Ask for volunteers to read Luke 24:36–49 using the script on resource page 317. (Or you could read from the Dramatised Bible.)
- 2 Ask the young people what they think the 'core' message of this passage is: that Jesus is alive and that we have to tell others this good news just as the disciples were called to do.
- 3 The script on page 317 is purposefully brief – ask the young people to create a new, more interesting drama that puts across the main message of the passage. Give out Bibles and encourage the group to work with the Bible text. When you have finished, perform the drama (to other groups, if possible).
- 4 Conclude by saying that we, too, have that same exciting challenge set before us: to proclaim that Jesus is alive!



LEVEL 3: SWITCH ON

WHAT: in-depth Bible study

WHY: to realise that we must proclaim that Jesus is alive

WITH: Bibles, pens, paper

- 1 Divide the young people into two groups: a 'Jesus' group and a 'disciple' group. Give each group a Bible and ask them to read Luke 24:36–49.
- 2 Ask the 'Jesus' group to write a brief summary or some notes on what Jesus is doing in this passage, and ask the 'disciple' group to write about what the disciples are doing in the passage. Ask them to particularly look at some of the emotions expressed. For example, they might come up with fear, being troubled, doubt, amazed, happy, belief, opening of minds.
- 3 Come back together after about five minutes and share what each group has found out.
- 4 You could conclude by reading the passage again and asking the young people to listen and have their minds opened to understand like the disciples.

RESPOND



MUSICAL

WHAT: listening and singing, composing

WHY: to discover how we can respond to the good news that Jesus is alive

WITH: worship music, pens, paper

- 1 If your group like to sing then sing some songs which deal with the theme of proclaiming the message of what Jesus has done for us, or on the theme of the cross.
- 2 Alternatively, if your group are musical, they could try to write lyrics and music for a new Easter song based on any aspect of the Easter message, or a song of witness about sharing their faith. This song could be worked on and used as part of an outreach youth event or in a service at church.



PRACTICAL

WHAT: prayer and reflection

WHY: to encourage the young people to respond to today's message

WITH: copies of resource page 317, reflective background music, candle

- 1 Seat your group in a circle and place a lit candle in the centre. Play some reflective background music.
- 2 Give out copies of resource page 317 and encourage the young people to read the prayer 'That walk'. A leader or young person could read it first to the whole group.
- 3 When they have read it, ask the group to quietly reflect on what the prayer is saying to them. They can look at the candle and listen to the music while they do this. Ask them to think about what response they should make to the fact that Jesus is alive and calls us to tell others. The young people could have a copy of this to take home and keep to use in their prayer time.



CREATIVE

WHAT: dance, drama, art, clay, music, poetry

WHY: to creatively interpret all that the Easter story means to the young people

WITH: selection of resources, according to the options you can provide

- 1 Before the session, decide what options you would like to offer to the young people, depending on the resources you have and the interests of the group.
- 2 Let the group choose from a variety of creative activities. The idea is to create something, whether through dance, clay, music, drama, art or poetry to interpret the Easter story. They could focus on a part of the story or on the idea of us being called to be witnesses sharing the good news with others.
- 3 Come together and share whatever you have produced. There may be things that could be used in church or as part of a youth outreach event.

MORE ON THIS THEME:

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 50 | <i>Broken for you</i> | <i>Luke 19:28–40; 22:7–23</i> |
| 51 | <i>'He is not here!'</i> | <i>Luke 24:1–35</i> |

We are witnesses

Bible bit
Luke 24:36–49

Cleopas and his friend are halfway through their amazing story when Jesus appeared among them. Despite the story they are in the middle of hearing, they still think Jesus is a ghost! But, after Jesus has explained the story, they believe that he really is alive. Then Jesus gives them the task of telling the whole world!

Amazing facts

Read these amazing facts.
Which one impresses you most?

If you break wind continually for six years and nine months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

A cockroach will live for nine days without its head before it starves to death.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

It's impossible to lick your elbow.

The Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet would be capable of flying upside down if it weren't for the fact that the wings would shear off when it tried to roll over.

Manatees (large mammals who live in swamps) possess vocal cords which give them the ability to speak like humans, but they don't do so because they have no ears with which to hear the sound.

King Henry VIII slept with a gigantic axe.

Human saliva has a boiling point three times that of regular water.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who lived, died and rose again for us!

Due to the natural momentum of the ocean, saltwater fish cannot swim backwards.

In the weightlessness of space, a frozen pea will explode if it comes into contact with Pepsi.

A Japanese woman had 56 tapeworms removed from her stomach.

The human heart creates so much pressure as it pumps blood around the body that a wound can squirt blood up to 30 feet away.

Coca-Cola would be green if colouring were not added to it.

The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is 9,000 years old.

Honey is the only food that does not spoil.

Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found to be edible.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its tongue.

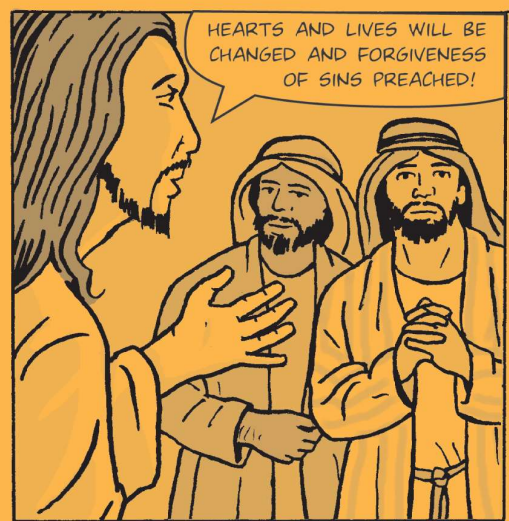
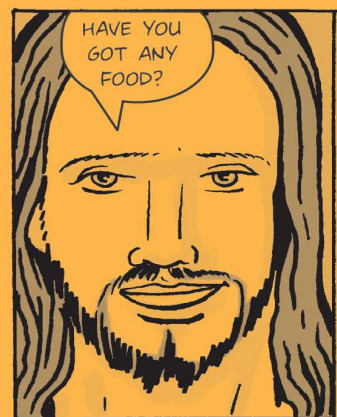
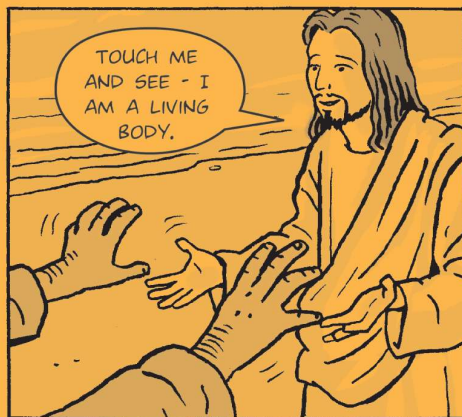
Slugs have four noses.

During a 24-hour period, the average human will breathe 23,000 times.

Cat urine glows under an ultraviolet light.

52

He's alive!



And finally! This was to be the task of the disciples: To tell others the good news that Jesus is alive!

USE WITH SESSION 52 BIBLE EXPERIENCE 'LEVEL 2 INTERFACE' & RESPOND 'PRACTICAL'

Jesus appears to his followers

Cast: Jesus, the disciples and some women

Jesus: *(Standing in the midst of the group assembled.)* Peace be with you.

Disciple 1: He can't be real, it's a ghost!

(The other disciples look afraid.)

Jesus: What's the matter? I am real. Come and see my hands and feet, touch me – I am not a ghost because I am a living body!

Disciple 2: *(Touching Jesus.)* Wow! That is amazing! He is real!

Jesus: Do you have any food I could have?

Disciple 3: We have some fish.

(He gives Jesus some fish. Jesus eats it.)

Jesus: Do you remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen?

(Disciples all nod in agreement.)

Jesus: Well, it was written that I would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that people's hearts and lives would be changed and that they would receive forgiveness in my name. This message is given to you, for all nations, starting in Jerusalem; you are to go and tell others, in my name, this good news, and I will send the Holy Spirit to help you.

That walk

Lord, you took that walk to the cross for me,
And as I stand with the disciples in your Resurrection glory,
May I truly know that you live.
That you live in the hearts of men and women today,
That you know me and have called me by name,
That like those first disciples I too am called,
That I am called to follow where you lead,
That I am called to tell all nations about the wonder of your love,
Your forgiving power, your sacrifice,
Made for me,
When you took that walk to the cross.