

John 20:6– 10; 13; 24-25 (NLT)

⁶Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,
⁷while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.
⁸Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—
⁹for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.
¹⁰Then they went home.

¹³"Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.
"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."

²⁴One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.
²⁵They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"
But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Monday Morning Moment:

The Bible makes it clear that the Word of God, not personal experiences, should be the basis for our faith!

1 Peter 1:20 - 21 (NLT)

²⁰God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.
²¹Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

Romans 10:16 - 17 (ESV)

¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"
¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

When John saw the empty tomb and the empty grave clothes, he instantly believed that Jesus must have risen from the dead. The text stresses the importance here of John “seeing and believing” to affirm the eyewitness account of an apostle.

Note: Though John believed that the graveclothes and open tomb indicated Jesus’ resurrection, he **still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead (NIV)** (see 2:22).

1. John believed, but without complete understanding; that would come later and affirm his belief.
2. The *Scripture* they would come to understand probably included Psalm 16:10 (“You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay,” NIV) and Isaiah 53:11 (“After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied” NIV).
3. The disciples did not fabricate this story about the Resurrection; in fact, they were surprised that Jesus was not in the tomb. When John saw the graveclothes looking like an empty cocoon from which Jesus had emerged, he believed that Jesus had risen. It wasn’t until after they had seen the empty tomb that they remembered what the Scriptures and Jesus had said—he would die, but he would also rise again!

John’s account also demonstrates that the disciples couldn’t have “invented” the Resurrection in order to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies because they did not immediately see any Old Testament connection. The *fact* of the Resurrection opened the disciples minds to see that God had foretold his plan through the prophets.

Why is Jesus’ resurrection the key to the Christian faith?

- Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said. We can be confident, therefore, that Jesus will accomplish all he has promised.
- Jesus’ bodily resurrection shows us that the living Christ, not a false prophet or impostor, is ruler of God’s eternal kingdom.
- Because Jesus was resurrected, we can be certain of our own resurrection. Death is not the end—there is future life.
- The divine power that brought Jesus back to life is now available to us to bring our spiritually dead selves back to life.

The Resurrection is the basis for the church’s witness to the world.

Jesus’ Appearances after His Resurrection	
1. Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
2. The other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
3. Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
4. The two travelers on the road	Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35
5. Ten disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
6. All eleven disciples (including Thomas)	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7. Seven disciples while fishing on the Sea of Galilee	John 21:1-14
8. Eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee	Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18
9. A crowd of 500	1 Corinthians 15:6
10. Jesus’ brother James	1 Corinthians 15:7
11. Those who watched Jesus ascend into heaven	Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

1. What scripture(s) come to mind when you think about Jesus dying on the cross? What thoughts come to your mind? How does it make you feel?

2. Provide a definition for the names:

a) Peter

b) Simon

c) Cephas

In your opinion, how important is a person's name? Is there a relationship between a person's name and their nature? Can you support your ideas scripturally? If so, please do.

3. Please list three scriptures where Jesus foretold His death prior to the crucifixion.

*(e.g. **Matthew 20:17 - 19 (NLT)** ¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. ¹⁸"Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. ¹⁹Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.")*