

The Empty Tomb**TEXT: Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-18****STORY ELEMENTS:****Setting:** circa 31 AD in Jerusalem**Main Characters:** God, Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John**Plot:** The disciples return to the tomb on Sunday morning and find it empty.**Key word(s):** "_____"**Climax:** *Luke 24:5 ...Why seek ye the living among the dead? Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen...***Review**

1. Jesus died after hanging on the cross for _____ hours. Joseph of Arimathea donated his family's private sepulchre for Jesus' body. Nicodemus and some of the women who followed Jesus, hastily prepared his body for burial before the Sabbath began.

The First Witnesses of the Resurrection

2. (Luke 24:1-4) The women¹ who came to the tomb early Sunday morning to finish preparing the body for burial were concerned that they would not be able to find someone to remove the heavy stone that had sealed the entrance (Mark 16:3). To their utter amazement, they found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb _____.
3. After the women entered the tomb, two angels appeared to them. The angels were already there, but did not appear to the women until they were inside the tomb looking for Jesus.
 - (a) (Matthew 28:2-4) During the night, there was an _____. Two angels descended from heaven (Matthew mentions one, Mark mentions two) and rolled the stone away. One angel sat inside on the right side while the other sat atop the large stone.
 - (b) The guards stationed at the tomb fainted from _____, but must have revived and fled before the women arrived.
4. (Luke 24:5-8) The angel said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they _____ his words.

Matthew 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Matthew 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

¹ Luke 24:10 mentions Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), Joanna (Luke 8:3), Mary the mother of James (Matt. 27:56), and other women. The evidence suggests that Mary Magdalene came alone and was not with the main group of women.

The First Apostles to See the Empty Tomb

- (Luke 24:9-11) The women ran to tell the disciples, who received their word with _____ and disbelief. Peter and John ran to the tomb though, John arriving first, but Peter was the first to go in the tomb to inspect it.
 - (John 20:3-7) Peter and John found the tomb empty and a burial cloth folded neatly. Why do you think John would include this detail? _____
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The First Appearance of the Resurrected Christ

- (John 20:11-13) Mary Magdalene, returned to the tomb distraught and confused. It seems she was not there with the other women who had seen the angels, but she had told Peter and John about the empty tomb. The angels asked her why she was weeping, and Mary, broken with grief, answered that she was distressed because the body of her Master was _____ away.
- (John 20:14-16) Turning around, she saw Jesus standing before her. But she did not recognize him and supposed he was the _____. Only when Jesus said her name did she realize that her Savior was alive!

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

HOW TO USE THIS HAND-OUT AS A TAKE-HOME BIBLE STUDY:

- Read the Bible passage indicated in the **STORY ELEMENTS** box.
- Try to fill in the blanks based upon your understanding of the passage.
- Check your answers with the **Answer Key and correct any errors**
 - Understand that some blanks may have more than one correct answer (e.g., synonyms for words in the Answer Key)
 - Understand that some answers are a matter of opinion

4) Write down your own thoughts and personal applications in the **Notes** section.

5) Enjoy God's Word!

ANSWER KEY:

key word(s): "risen"

- six
- empty
- a) earthquake; b) fear
- remembered
- doubt
- To show that the body was not stolen
- stolen
- gardener