

26. Alive!

Introduction: In the previous story, Jesus was nailed to a cross and died. Many who followed Jesus were very sad. That day was Friday. As was the custom, some women wanted to rub sweet smelling oil onto Jesus' body. Because the next day was Sabbath, they had to wait until Sunday. (Luke 23:46, 56)

The third day after Jesus died was Sunday morning. The women brought the sweet smelling oil and came to Jesus' tomb. When they arrived, they saw that the big rock which had sealed the tomb had been rolled away. They went into the tomb to see, but they could not find the body of Jesus. (Luke 24:1–3)

They were thinking: "What has happened? Where is Jesus' body?" At that moment, there were two men dressed in white standing beside these women. The women were very frightened and knelt down on the ground. (Luke 24:4)

The two men spoke to them: "Why are you looking for a living man among the dead? Jesus is not here, he is alive again. Don't you remember what he told you before he died: that he would be betrayed, would be nailed to a cross, and then would come back to life on the third day?" (Luke 24:5–7)

After the women heard these words they remembered that Jesus really did tell them about all these things. (Luke 24:8–9)

In another place, there were some followers of Jesus and there were the disciples of Jesus. They were all there talking about Jesus being nailed to the cross. At that moment, Jesus stood among them, saying to them, "Peace be with you!" They were very afraid, thinking that they were seeing a ghost. (Luke 24:36–37)

Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid, it is I. Come and see clearly my feet and my hands. Use your hand to touch me. I am not a ghost, I am a man. Ghosts do not have flesh, or bones. You see, I have those." (Luke 24:38–39)

They felt this was very strange. Jesus knew they did not believe, so he asked them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave Jesus a piece of fish. Jesus ate the fish in front of them. He did this to prove that he was a man who had died and now lives again. (Luke 24:41–43)

After this, Jesus told them what God had said in the Bible, to help them understand. Jesus said, "The Bible was written many, many years ago. God gave you the Savior, who has come to take men's sin away. He had to suffer for the sins of men, to shed blood, and to be killed. Then, on the third day, he was raised from the dead. Every one of you needs to spread this good news of redemption to all people. (Luke 24:44–47)

What I have taught you, you have to teach others. For those who believe in me, baptize them. Do not be afraid, and do not forget: I will be with you; I will always be with you." (Matthew 28:19–20)

After some days, Jesus and his disciples went to a small hill outside Jerusalem. Jesus told them, "God will give you his Holy Spirit. When God's Holy Spirit comes into you, you will have power to tell others about what I have done, from Jerusalem, to the rest of the world." (Acts 1:8)

After Jesus said these words, his disciples saw Jesus being raised up to heaven. Their eyes stared at Jesus as he was going up, until they could not see Jesus any more. They were still staring at the sky when, at that moment, there were two men dressed in white standing beside them. The men told them, "Why are you still standing here staring at the sky? Jesus is now at God's home. The way he just left will be the same way he will return in the future." (Acts 1:9–11)