

Who Is Jesus?



Wonder What Jesus Really Looks Like?

Photography was about 2000 years too late to catch a photo of Jesus. But that hasn't stopped countless artists from painting, drawing, or sculpting a likeness of his face. That means deciding what Jesus could have looked like back in the days when he was walking the streets of Galilee.

So what would a typical Jewish man living in Israel in A.D. 33 really look like? Advances in forensic anthropology now offer clues to Jesus' profile. Medical artist Richard Neave and his team of researchers used computerized tomography to develop the likeness of Jesus pictured here. Skulls of ancient Semite men found near Jerusalem provided a framework for the profile, and 1 Corinthians 11:14 helped Neave decide on the hairstyle Jesus may have preferred.

Visit www.popularmechanics.com/science/health/forensics/1282186 to read the full story.

Image:
BBC Photo Library

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

PREVIEW

Think about it . . .

- Artists make choices about how they depict Jesus' skin tone, hairstyle, facial features and expressions. How could these choices make one person feel closer to Jesus and another more distant?
- How has popular art influenced the way you think about Jesus?

Talk about it

- When you picture Jesus in your mind, what does he look like? What is he doing?
- Check out the artwork on the back cover. What are your thoughts about each?

Thoughts & Theories

▶ Theories

▶ Miracles

▶ Teachings

▶ Nazareth

▶ Pharisees

▶ Contact



Remember me

Login >

Subscribe

Sign Up for alerts whenever new theories surface.

Who Is

Jesus of Nazareth continues to travel through his progressive—sometimes offensive—teachings. Who is this wonder of a man, and where does he live? Here are the latest theories.

An Ancient Prophet, Alive Again?

Elijahaz: I say Jesus is the prophet Elijah. Eight thousand years ago when all the prophets had died, Elijah challenged King Ahab and called himself “troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17). According to the Bible, he was taken up to God (2 Kings 2:1). So it’s not surprising he’s in trouble again.

Prophetfan: I see your point, Elijahaz. Jesus is the prophet who has come back again. But my theory is that Jesus is the one whose name means, “Yahweh exalts” (Isaiah 9:6). He’s the judgment.

Jesus = Savior

Saviorsleuth: If you ask me, his name is Jesus. He’s already calming storms, casting out demons, and he wasn’t sent from God, how can you expect him to do anything that he has?

Could Jesus Be John?

StillSearching: Ever since John the Baptist said that Jesus is John the Baptist (whose name means “God heard this”), I don’t see how they could be. The teachings of Jesus are very similar to those of John. Jesus challenges sinful rulers, calls people to repentance, and God’s justice. If he keeps making people angry, he might face the same fate as John.

Jesus?

Throughout Israel, shocking religious leaders with his teachings, and dazzling crowds with his miracles. How did he get his power? Follow this forum for the

[More >](#)

Elijah (whose name means “Yahweh is my God”). Many people followed the Baals instead of God, and he called the people back to God. Ahab called him the “false prophet.” According to the Bible, Elijah never actually died, but I think he’s back with a new name stirring up

I also think Jesus is one of the ancient prophets. My theory is that he’s the “weeping prophet” Jeremiah (Jeremiah means “weeping”). He’s back to warn the people of God’s

[More >](#)

John says it all. In Hebrew “Jesus” means Savior. He’s the one who drives out demons, healing the sick, and forgiving sins. If he can explain all the good he’s doing, and all the power

[More >](#)

John the Baptist was killed by Herod I’ve heard rumors that his name means “God is gracious”). Has anyone else thought it could be the same person, but I know the man who was with what John was preaching before he died. He promises people to turn away from sin, and promises that he will be in powerful positions like John the Baptist.

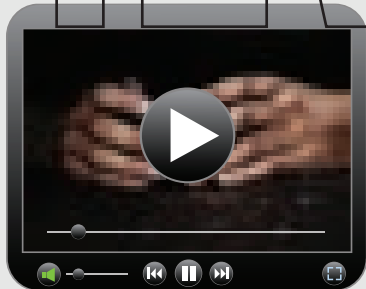


What About You?

Son_of_Man: Who do you say that I am?

Play Video:

Pharisees confront Jesus when disciples fail to wash hands.



Newsletter



Will You Come and Follow Me?

Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross and follow me."
—Matthew 16:24, NIV

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

—John Bell © 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group,
Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc.,
exclusive North American agent.



Songs of Steps

In the Old Testament there are fifteen psalms called “Psalms of Ascent” or the “Songs of Steps.” The psalms were to be sung by the people as they traveled up the hill to Jerusalem to attend a festival or by the priests as they ascended the steps of the temple in Jerusalem.

A song for those who go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does

my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and

earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he

who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. —Psalm 121:1-4

PREVIEW

The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you

by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the

LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. —Psalm 121:5-8

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround

Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. —Psalm 125:1-2

All of you who serve the LORD, praise the LORD. All of you who serve at night in the house of the LORD, praise him. Lift up your hands in the

temple and praise the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion. He is the

Maker of heaven and earth. Amen.

What do you mean when you say he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

That the Holy Spirit made the virgin Mary pregnant.

Uh, that’s unusual!

This means that her Son, Jesus ...

... is both the eternal Son of God ...

... and a real human being.

Whoa.

FOR WHO IS JESUS?

Q&A 25

Q&A 26

But what good does this do us?

Only someone who is truly God ...

I wonder if anyone will notice this pimple?

... and truly human ...

... could become the go-between (mediator) who makes us right with God.

Whoa!

Between Heaven and Earth

• How has God been reaching out to you lately?

• Is there anything getting in the way of or creating problems in your relationship with God or your family? Talk to God about it...

PREVIEW

Illustration by Kathleen M. Anderson

There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus. He gave himself to pay for the sins of everyone. Matthew 2:5-6a, NIV
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

Jesus on Trial*



PONTIUS PILATE was a man caught in the middle. He served as the Prefect (kind of like a governor) of the Roman province of Judea from A.D. 26-36. Normally Pilate resided in Caesarea but he probably came to Jerusalem for the Passover (a festival of national and religious significance for the Jews) in order to help keep the peace. Even though Pilate found Jesus innocent of causing political revolt, he had him flogged.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, "We honor you, king of the Jews!" And they hit him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews replied, "We have a law. That law says he must die. He claimed to be the Son of God."

Since purple was the color of royalty, a purple robe and thorns twisted into a crown were used by the soldiers to mock Jesus and his followers for claiming that he was king.

DURING THE TIME of Jesus, flogging or whipping involved methodically beating someone with whips containing sharp pieces of metal or bone to inflict pain and cause severe injury and blood loss.

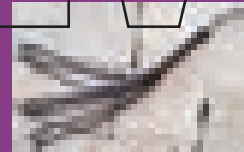


photo by Knight's Edge Ltd.

blas·phe·my

noun \blas-fə-mē\

1a: the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God

1b: the act of claiming the attributes of deity

2: irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable

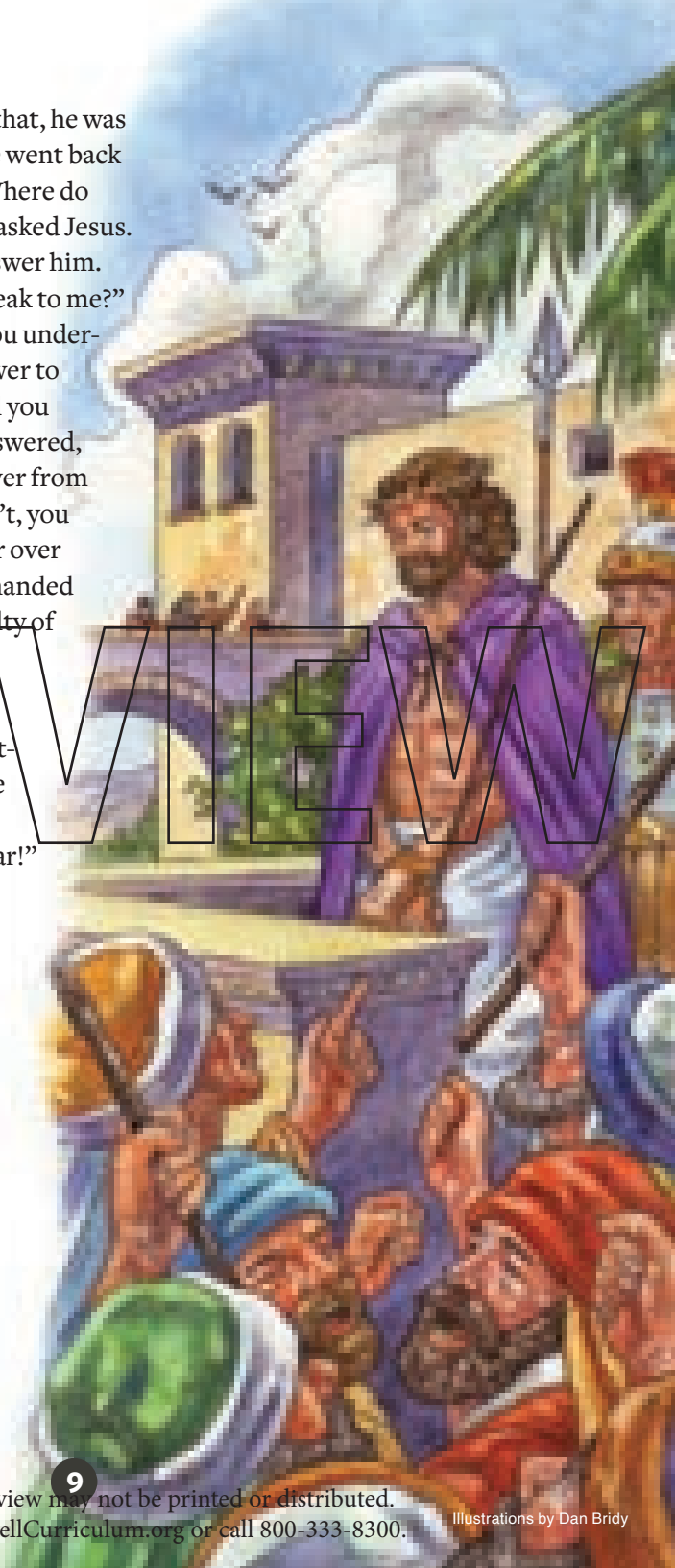
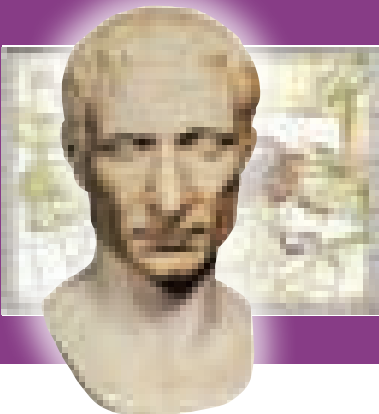
... anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD is to be put to death. —*Leviticus 24:16*, TNIV



When Pilate heard that, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus. But Jesus did not answer him. “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you understand? I have the power to set you free or to nail you to a cross.” Jesus answered, “You were given power from heaven. If you weren’t, you would have no power over me. So the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are not Caesar’s friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is against Caesar!”

Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome during the time of Jesus, whose rule extended to Jerusalem and beyond.



“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

—John 10:14-18

Kill him!

When Pilate heard that, he brought Jesus out. Pilate sat down on the judge’s seat. It was at a place called The Stone Walkway. In the Aramaic language it was called Gabbatha. It was about noon on Preparation Day in Passover Week. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!” “Should I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

PREVIEW

Crucify him!

Q. What do you mean when you say he “suffered under Pontius Pilate”?

A. In his whole life and death on the cross, Christ suffered God’s anger against sin, shown in Pilate’s judgment. He suffered so that we might never suffer such severe judgment.

—Q&A 27, Q&A,
A Summary of Biblical Teachings

Sacred Reading

Christians have been using a method called *Lectio Divina* for 15 centuries as a way to listen to God through the words of Scripture. The title is Latin: *Lectio* means “reading” and *Divina* means “divine.” Follow these five steps for practicing *Lectio Divina* using one of the passages that you read in today’s story:



Step 1: Focus your mind

Prepare your mind to listen to God by quieting all other thoughts. Breathe in and out deeply several times and ask God to open your heart to what he has to say. If other thoughts begin to intrude, repeat this verse spoken by God in Psalm 46: “Be still and know that I am God” until you are ready to move to Step 2.

Step 2: Read Slowly

Now you’re ready to read a specific passage of Scripture slowly and let it sink in. Choose only a verse or two, and read it silently, then quietly out loud. Repeat this once or twice more, almost as if you’re trying to memorizing what is written. As you do, listen for a word



or phrase that jumps out at you or calls you to pay attention to it. Maybe it’s a word or phrase that bothers you or confuses you or comforts you. When you find the word or phrase that stands out to you, write it down here, and then move on to Step 3.

My word or phrase from God ...

Step 3: Ponder

In this step you’re going to think deeply about the word or phrase that caught your attention in the last step. Repeat your word/phrase several times, looking for observations or applications: How does your word/phrase connect to your life right now? Write or sketch about that connection below.

My word from God + my life ...



Step 4: Pray

We’re working under the faithful assumption that God has brought this word/phrase and feeling to the surface. Now it’s time to ask God why. Ask God some or all of these questions:

- God, why did you give me this word/phrase today?
- What are you saying to me?
- What do you want me to do with what you’ve given me today?

Listen for how God nudges or speaks to your heart, and respond. Maybe you will be moved to give God praise or thanks for some new insight or comfort God has given you. Or maybe there is something you need to confess, or someone God is asking you to pray for. Expect God to speak in some way to your heart as you listen!

Step 5: Love

After you’ve listened and talked with God, take a moment to breathe deep and just rest quietly in God’s presence. Feel the love of God surround you like a warm blanket or a big hug!



Q. Why is it important to say he “was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell”?

A. Because, by hanging on the cross, Jesus took on himself the curse of sin. He actually died and suffered the pains of hell. He did all this to free us from eternal death. — Q&A 28, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings



I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell

—*The Apostles' Creed*

PREVIEW

A soldier

Not pleasant work,
driving these spikes
through
hands
and feet.

Do it quick,
get it over,
that's what I say.
Funny, how this one
is different,
almost as if
he has the power
to

come
down
off
that
cross
but chooses to stay.
Makes no sense...

But this I know:
no king—
that's what the sign
called him
—chooses a cross
over a crown.
Too bad the dice
went against me,
I really wanted
that seamless robe
he wore.



Chief Priest*

*“Please let me
remove that lie
that sign
that says
this blasphemer
is our King!”
I begged of Pilate.
No use.
“What I’ve written,
I’ve written,”
Pilate said.
So there it hangs now,
Above the head of the
crucified king.
Some king!
“He saved others,”
I tell the crowd,
“but he can’t save
himself. Let this
Christ,
this king of Israel,
come down now from
the cross,
that we may see
and
believe.”
I’m here
To tell you now
that
he
never
even
tried.*

**Based on Matthew
27:39-43*

Mary Magdalene

*Once,
not so long ago,
I was cursed with
seven demons
who actually lived
inside me.
Then this King,
my friend,
who
now hangs
cursed
on a cross,
set me free
forever.
Little did I know
that I would be
the very first
to see
my crucified
Lord
alive!*

Mary, Mother of Jesus

There
are no words
for what I feel.
Anger,
pity,
love,
grief that sits like a
stone in my heart. . . .

There are no words
for what a mother
feels when she
sees her son
crucified.

I do not understand...
though I always knew
he was from God.
"He will be great,"
the angel told me,
"and he will be called
the Son of the
Most High."

Even now,
at this terrible hour,
he thinks of me
and tells me to claim
John as my new son.
Even now,
at this terrible hour,
I know
That—as the angel
said—his kingdom
will never
end.

John

The disciple
whom
Jesus loved.

That's me.
Not that he didn't
love the others,
but I always felt
somehow closer
than the rest.

And now,
this King
who loved me
and whom I love,

the Son of
almighty God,
hangs here dying.
No one
really believed him
when he said
this would happen.

Kings don't get
nailed to crosses.

But here he is.
And even now,
in all his pain,
he looks at me
kindly and tells me
to take care of his
mother Mary.

Loving,
caring,
even
now.

The Centurion*

*I—a respected leader
of one hundred
of the finest
soldiers in the world—
never thought
I'd bow before
a crucified
King.*

*But while he hung
there the sun blinked
out like a candle
and it was midnight
at high noon!*

*Darkness
for three straight hours,
and when he died
the earth shook,
rocks split open,
tombs crumbled,
and dead saints
walked like ghosts.*

*Someone said
the temple veil had
ripped from top to
bottom.*

*I tell you
I was
terrified.*

*“Surely
this man was
the Son of God!”*

*I shouted.
And I believed.*

**Based on the
crucifixion story in
Matthew 27:48-54*



Joseph of Arimathea

It seemed the least that I—a member of the Council but also a secret disciple of Jesus—could do.

Summoning my courage, I boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

He was surprised that Jesus had died so soon, but when he learned the truth he gave me permission.

Nicodemus—another secret disciple—and I returned to Golgotha,

removed the body from the cross, wrapped it in linen cloth, placed it in my own new tomb cut out of the rock, and rolled a big stone over the entrance.

Mary Magdalene and the other women

followed us and saw where we put the body.

Who would believe that in three short days this new tomb would be gloriously empty?

PREVIEW

If I had been there . . .

What if you had been there, witnessing the death of Jesus? What would you have seen, heard, and felt? Express your thoughts and feelings in one of the following ways:

Write a short poem—maybe like those on pages 13-17—expressing your feelings about what Jesus’ crucifixion means to you.

PREVIEWEW

Write one or two new verses to the song, “Were You There.” Your new verses could come in at the end, beginning, or in the middle of the song.

Fill in the picture on page 19 by drawing a stick figure sketch of yourself at the foot of the cross. Where would you be—with the soldiers? With Jesus’ mother and the other women? In the distance? Fill in the other people and details. What would you be doing—looking at Jesus? Looking away? Comforting someone? Weeping? Kneeling? Show your feelings by the location and your actions. Finish by giving your drawing a title.

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

—*Afro-American Spiritual*

I Was There . . . *(Additional verses)*



PREVIEW

Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark, Mary
Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been
removed from the tomb. . . .

—*John 20:1, NRSV*

PREVIEW

*Were you there when
God raised him from
the tomb?*

*Were you there when
God raised him from
the tomb?*

*Oh, sometimes it
causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when
God raised him from
the tomb?*

—*Afro-American
Spiritual*

Empty



What if it was you who discovered that the stone had been rolled away? Read this first-person narrative of today's story, and use your imagination to transport yourself to the empty tomb. Jot down your thoughts, words, actions . . . and your name.

It's the first day of the week, so early in the morning that the sun hasn't risen yet. But you're already on your way to the tomb. As you walk through the garden and approach the entrance you do a double take. The stone—the huge stone that was rolled over the entrance of the tomb is gone. And so is Jesus.

What did they say to you before they took off running?

Peter and the other disciple raced to the tomb. The other disciple beat Peter there and stood at the edge, looking in at the pieces of cloth lying there. When Peter arrived he went right in. He looked at the strips of linen lying there, along with the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head, still lying in place.

Then the other disciple, who had arrived at the tomb first, went inside. He saw and believed. But they still didn't understand that the Scriptures said that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Before long the disciples went away, leaving you standing alone outside the tomb, crying.

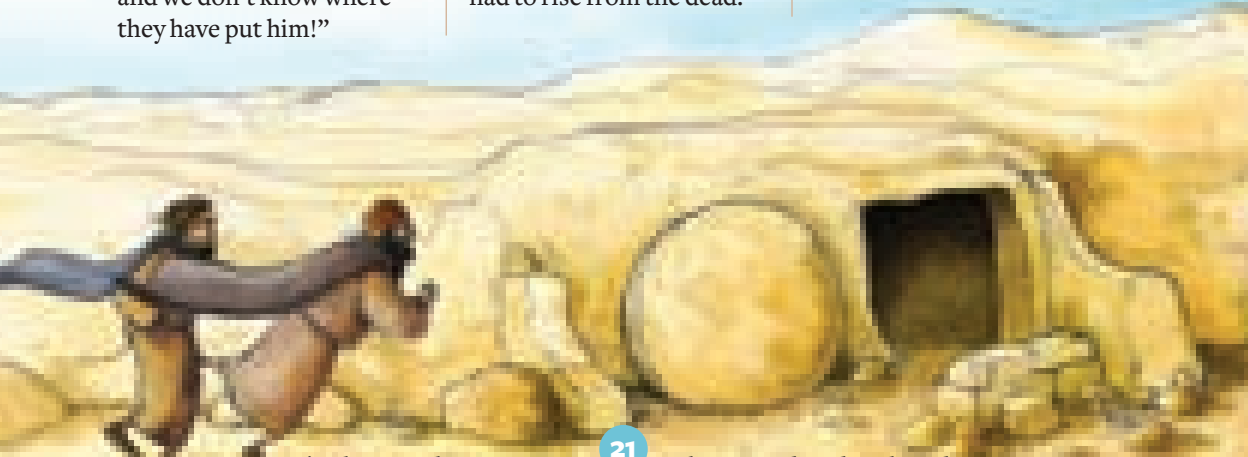
Why did you want to stay?

You crouch down to look into the tomb—but it's not empty. Two angels dressed all in white are sitting right where Jesus' body had been. Seeing your tears, they ask, "Why are you crying?"

What are you thinking and feeling now?

What goes through your mind as you see the empty tomb?

You take off running at once to find Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved. Breathless, you reach them and manage to blurt out, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"



Isn't it obvious? you think. But you reply, "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him."

You hear a noise and turn to see someone standing behind you. Is he the gardener? He asks the same thing: "Why are you crying?" Then he asks, "Who is it you are looking for?"

"Sir," you say, "if you have taken him away, tell me where and I will go get him."

Then, a startling thing happens; the gardener says your name:

But now you recognize the voice. It's *his* voice. . . .

Turning around to face him you shout, "Teacher!"—the name you've always called him.

You want to throw your arms around him for a big hug, but he tells you not to cling to him because he hasn't yet ascended to the Father. Instead, he asks you to go back and tell the disciples, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

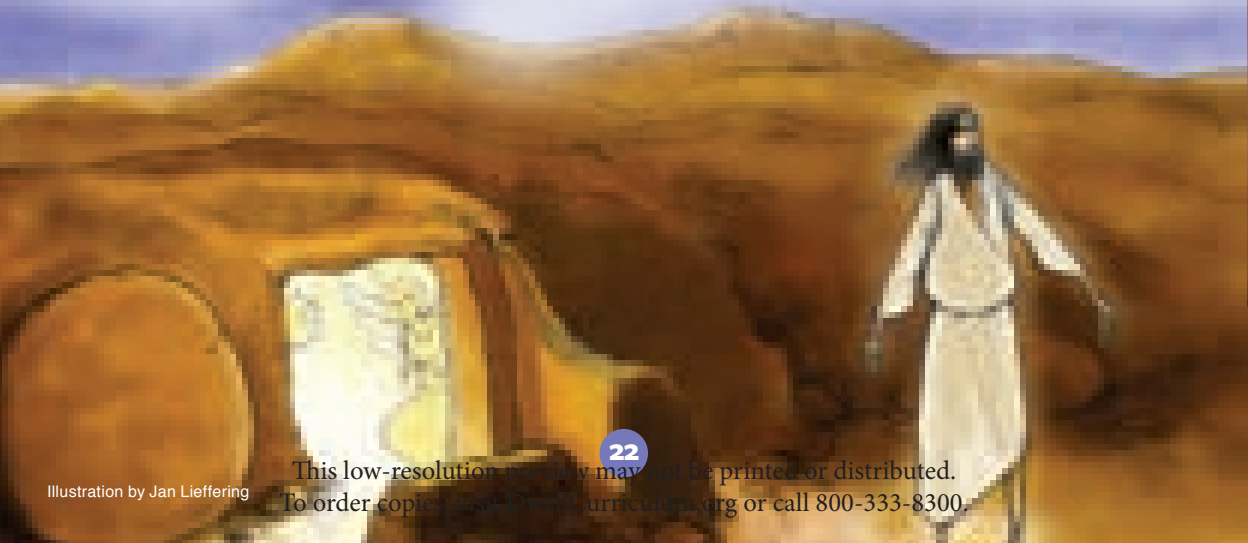
So you go back to the disciples to share the good news: "I have seen the Lord!"

What thoughts are racing through your mind right now?

What did you say about your encounter with him in the garden?

PREVIEW

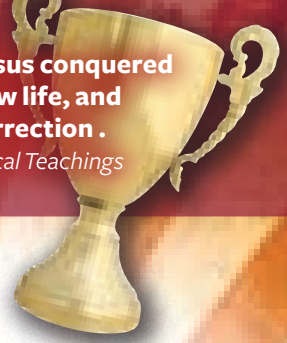
I have seen the Lord!



Q. What good does it do us that he “rose again from the dead”?

A. By rising from the dead, Jesus conquered sin and death, won for us a new life, and guaranteed our glorious resurrection .

—Q&A 29, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings



The Paschal Greeting*

The Paschal greeting is a custom among Orthodox Christians consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of saying hello, you greet another person by saying “Christ is risen!” The other person responds, “He is risen indeed!”

PREVIEW

The word *Paschal* refers to the Passover—Jesus is the new Passover Lamb, who sacrificed his life to save us from sin and rose again to defeat death!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!



Empty Tomb Resurre

Discovered Three Days After Burial; Rumored to be a . . .

The crucifixion of Jesus left Jerusalem reeling with questions: Why did the sky turn black and the temple curtain tear? Why didn't he save himself? What about the kingdom of God—wasn't he supposed to be the king?

Today—just three days later—an even bigger event has occurred. Hours ago Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, discovered Jesus' tomb empty. . . and even more astonishing, she actually saw Jesus alive and well, walking around in a garden.

PREVIEW

Already word is spreading; other news organizations will be on the scene in hours. You have to get the scoop before they arrive! Remember to cover all the critical questions:

- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- Where did this happen?
- Who are the witnesses? (Try to get an interview with Mary, Simon Peter, and the other disciple)
- What words were exchanged between parties?
- What does all of this mean?
- Why does this matter to our viewing audience?

Your job is to bring this important news to the people of Jerusalem.

You'll be broadcasting live from the scene in ten minutes. . . .



ction

Crown the King

This Easter banner

is a simple design that
would be easy to make.

The background fabric is
purple felt with gold trim,
representing the robe
Christ was forced to wear.
It is slit vertically and left
to hang
as it falls.

Nice,
but flat.
What if
the crown
were cut
out of

cardboard and covered
with yellow and orange
felt? It would be more
dramatic, and it would
also mean hanging the
banner somewhere other
than a wall!



—Adapted from Dean
Heetderks, “Come and See,”
Reformed Worship 58. Used by
permission.



This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

1 The LORD went in front of the Israelites in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

—Exodus 13:21-22, NRSV



PREVIEW

3 And whenever Moses went out to the tent entrances to their tents, watching Moses enter the tent, the pillar of cloud would cover the tent, and the LORD spoke with Moses. Whenever they went out from the tent, the pillar of cloud would be at the entrance to the tent, and they all stood in the pillar of cloud. The LORD would speak to Moses through the pillar of cloud.

—Exodus 33:8-11a

PRAYER:

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. . . . The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory. . . . For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Amen! —Psalm 97:1-2, 6, 9, NRSV

4

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him . . . suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" —Matthew 17:1-5, NRSV



PREVIEW

ent, all the people rose and stood at the
s until he entered the tent. As Moses went
me down and stay at the entrance, while
he people saw the pillar of cloud standing
and worshiped, each at the entrance to
es face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

2

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."
—Exodus 19:9, NRSV



I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. . . .

—The Apostles' Creed

PREVIEW

taken

cloud

Jesus

hid

watched

heaven

said

was

this

sight

from

They

to

their

a

until

him

* I wonder if Jesus' friends were ready to say goodbye to him.

* I wonder what it looked like to see him rise from the earth.

* I wonder if they kept looking for Jesus in the sky.

PREVIEW

Acts 1:3-11

* Do you think they could still sense Jesus' presence with them?

* What might they have thought when Jesus told them God would send the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Q. What good does it do us that he “ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God”?

A. At God’s side in heaven, Jesus our brother, defend us from all enemies.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. —*John 10:27-28*

How does this verse make you feel? Spend a moment praying about a fear or enemy you have that you need protection from. Then read the verse again for assurance that Jesus heard your prayer!

PREVIEW

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. —*1 John 2:1-2*

Imagine hearing Jesus talk to God the Father on your behalf. What do you hear him saying?

other pleads for us, leads his church, and sends his Spirit to pour out his gifts on us and

—Q&A 30, Q&A: A Summary of
Biblical Teachings

The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. —1 Corinthians 12:7, NIV

God sends the Holy Spirit to live in us to empower us to love God and love others. How has the Holy Spirit helped you love God and love others?

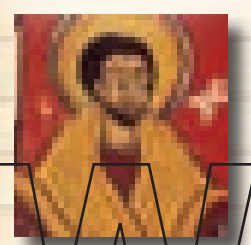
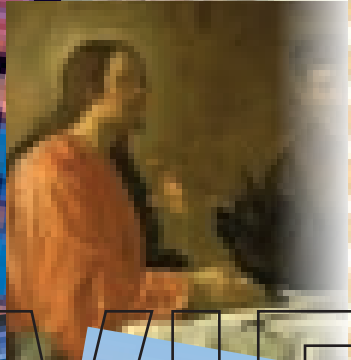
PREVIEW

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. —Colossians 1:18

What's an example of something Jesus has guided your church to do?

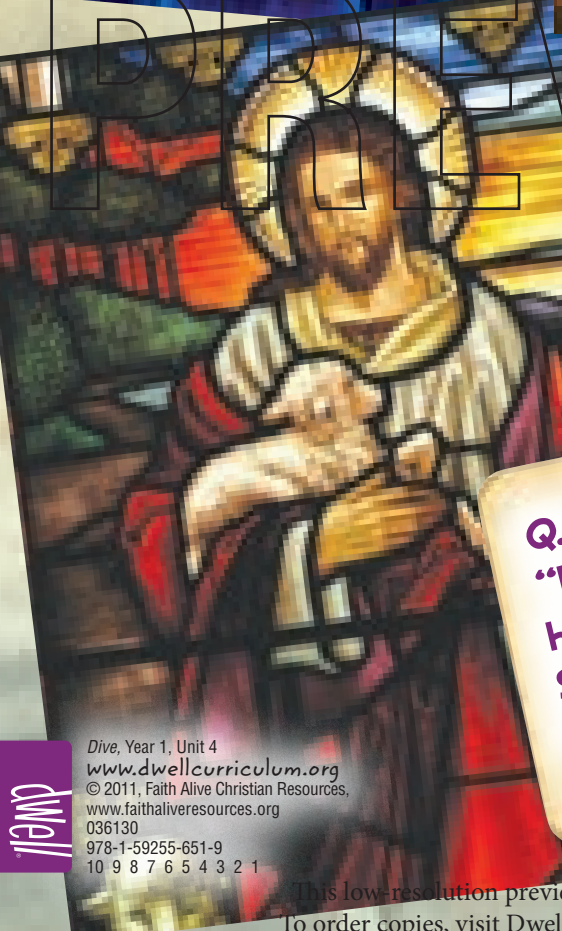


Credits: (upper left) "The Risen Christ" by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com); (lower left) "St. John's Ashfield stained glass" by Alfred Handel, d. 1946, photo: Toby Hudson; (upper center) "Chinese Jesus"; (middle center) "The Supper at Emmaus" by Diego Velázquez; (lower center) "Christ on Corcovado Mountain" Rio de Janeiro; (upper right) "Iyesus" Ethiopia; (lower right) "Christos Acheiropoietos" 12th century Russian icon



Unless otherwise credited, these photos are believed to be in the public domain.

PREVIEW



Q. Why do you say, "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord"?

A. Because Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, is my only Savior from sin. He is my Lord who delivers me from Satan's power and makes me his very own.

—Q&A 24, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings

Dive, Year 1, Unit 4
www.dwellcurriculum.org
© 2011, Faith Alive Christian Resources,
www.faithaliveresources.org
036130
978-1-59255-651-9
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.