

DANGEROUS CAMPING



Saturday Evening Talk

 Luke 24:36–45



BIG IDEA

Jesus showed his friends his scars and ate food to prove that it was really him. We can be certain that Jesus rose from the dead.

YOU WILL NEED

Items for the Touch, Smell, Taste Challenge (see separate instructions). A piece of cooked fish for Jesus to eat. An adult volunteer to play the part of Jesus (**their words are printed in orange**).



TALK OUTLINE

Intro activity: Play the Touch, Smell, Taste Challenge.

Link: It's amazing how, even with a blindfold on, you can be certain of what is in front of you. I want to tell you a true Bible story where Jesus' friends used their senses and were *certain* that something impossible was actually happening, right in front of them.

Space
for notes



Where are we in the Bible? Today we're remembering Jesus' resurrection. That is when Jesus rose from the dead, after he had been killed on a cross and his body had been left in a tomb for three days.

As the sun came up on that Sunday morning, some women went to the tomb and found it empty. You looked at that in your pods this morning. Now, we're looking at what happened later. Jesus' closest friends are together in a locked room, trying to understand what is happening. Is Jesus alive? Or dead? Where is his body? Is this possible?

We're going to go through this story in three separate moments. Here's the first...

1. They couldn't believe Jesus was alive

Jesus' closest friends were talking about all this, trying to make sense of it ... when Jesus appeared in front of them and said,

Person playing Jesus steps out of the congregation and speaks, "Peace be with you."

Read v 37: "They were fearful and terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost."

"Don't be upset. Why do you still doubt that it's me? Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this!" *Touch the volunteer. Prod his side and hands.*

It's reassuring. It's reassuring because we find it hard to believe in the resurrection. We find it hard to be sure that a man who had been dead for three days opened his eyes, never to die again. Jesus' followers knew for certain because they saw him. They touched him. So that we can be certain that Jesus rose from the dead.

That's moment 1. We can be sure that Jesus was alive because his closest friends saw him and touched him. Moment 2...

2. They couldn't understand that his body was real

Read v 41: "The followers were amazed and very happy. They still could not believe it." "Do you have any food here?"

They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes. *[Give "Jesus" a piece of fish. He eats it]* They watched him eat it.

It's exciting. It's exciting to be sure that Jesus had a body that ate and walked and laughed, because that means that one day we can have a resurrection body, just like his. One of the reasons I love Dangerous Camping is that it's so focused on the *body*! Food cooked and eaten outdoors seems to taste better. The air feels cleaner. The hills and the views make me feel more alive. Even sleeping is a great achievement! This *is* a taste of heaven. Those who trust in Jesus will be able to eat stuff, walk in hills, laugh around fires and play football in fields forever in heaven. You don't have to play football forever! I'm just saying you'll be able to.

So, moment 1 was that we can be sure that Jesus was alive because his closest friends saw him and touched him. Moment 2 is that we can be excited about having real resurrection bodies because Jesus ate food to show his risen body was real. Now, moment 3...

3. They understood it all when he showed them the Bible

Then Jesus said, **"Everything I told you while I was with you comes down to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to come true."**

This is a brain-aching moment. [*Hold up your Bible, with your fingers marking the whole Old Testament.*] Jesus says that this – the whole Old Testament – is about him.

- a. When the Passover lamb died in place of God's people in ancient Egypt, that was showing us Jesus – he would die in place of us.
- b. When David, a weak kid from Bethlehem, beat the giant Goliath that everyone else feared, that was showing us Jesus – the weak kid from Bethlehem, who beat the giants of sin and death that we fear.
- c. The Psalm that says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need" is about Jesus – the best shepherd who promises to give us all that we need.

Read v 45: "Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."

It's needed. Now Jesus' followers had got it. How it was all planned. How it had all been explained for thousands of years. Now they knew Jesus was God. Dead but alive again. But they had to keep reading their Bibles to be able to understand the impossible. We do, too. We need to keep



reading the Bible to learn more about Jesus.

Can you see what Jesus' followers saw?

Moment 1: We can be sure that Jesus is alive. We don't worship some dead guy. We follow Jesus because his closest friends saw him and touched him.

Moment 2: We can be excited because Jesus ate food to show his risen body was real. We know that one day we will have real bodies in heaven.

Moment 3: We need to read our Bibles so we can understand more about Jesus and live for him.

Conclusion

It is still "unbelievable" that Jesus rose from the dead. It seems impossible to imagine that it happened.

Except Jesus understood exactly how hard it was for his first disciples – and for us – to believe he rose from the dead, so he used their senses so that they could be certain.

If the resurrection is real, it changes everything. If we can believe Jesus rose from the dead, we can trust we will have life after death. We can enjoy finding out more about Jesus as we read the Bible. We can be certain.

Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? And that one day you will have a new body in heaven?

Have a quick conversation with your dad:

- Which one of these three moments makes you think a bit? (*Run through the three: being sure that Jesus is alive, being excited by real bodies in heaven, reading our Bibles to know Jesus better.*)
- Which do you think is wonderful?
- Which do you not believe?

**Space
for notes**





The Touch, Smell, Taste Challenge

This challenge uses the senses of touch, smell and taste to identify mystery items when blindfolded.

PREPARATIONS BEFOREHAND

Find two pairs of volunteers in advance. Each pair is one child and their dad. Check they have no relevant allergies.

You will also need four blindfolds plus spoons for tasting.

Choose your mystery items. You will need two for each sense – six in total. Choose from this list or think of your own. Use items large enough for the congregation to see.

TOUCH

(place it in their hands– first the dad and then the child)

- Pritt stick
- Tape measure
- Piece of fruit– strawberry, peach, etc
- Pasta shell

SMELL

(place this up against their nose – first the dad and then the child)

- Mustard
- Coffee
- Garlic *(cut a bulb open just before use)*
- Shampoo

TASTE

- Ketchup *(squeeze a little onto a spoon)*
- Lemon juice *(squeeze a little onto a spoon)*
- A small cube of cucumber *(place one into their mouth)*
- Popcorn *(place one piece into their mouth)*

PLAYING THE GAME

Blindfold all four volunteers. Explain to them and the gathered group what will happen. The pairs will compete to identify mystery items using their senses of touch, smell and taste. There are three rounds, one for each sense. Each pair gets one item per round.

Hold up each item to show the congregation before offering it to the pair.