



**Quarter 2 — Lesson 15**



## Year 3—Quarter 2: The Church is God's Idea

# Jesus Rose from the Dead

### Courtroom Debate: The Case of the Empty Tomb

Have an imaginary courtroom. Divide your class into three small groups: Pharisees, Romans, and Disciples.

Give each group a chance to meet in a corner of the room to discuss their debate strategy and put on their paper towels. (See Supplement Page)

**Round 1 — Say: Rumor has it that Jesus' body was stolen from the grave.** We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Ask each group: Would stealing Jesus' body help your group? Why? Or Why not?

**Round 2 — Say: Somebody may or may not have stolen Jesus' body from the tomb.** Maybe Jesus wasn't really dead when he was buried. We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Ask each group: Do you think Jesus

fainted or was buried alive? Why? Or Why not?

**Round 3 — Say: In this next round, we'll find out if Jesus really was killed.** Maybe the Romans killed the wrong guy! We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Ask each group: Do you think the sightings of Jesus were a case of mistaken identity? Explain.

### Conclusion:

Say: Since we can't prove that anyone took Jesus' body or faked his resurrection, perhaps we should conclude that Jesus Christ really rose from the dead.

## Power Point

Jesus was  
**REALLY**  
raised from  
the dead.



### Group Activity: Pharisees, Romans, & Disciples

**Leader Say:** We're here to solve a mystery! A few weeks ago, Jesus of Nazareth was arrested, beaten, and nailed to a cross. He supposedly died and was buried in a tomb carved from solid stone. But now the body is missing.

To get to the bottom of this mystery, all of you—Pharisees, Romans, and Disciples—will debate

the possible reasons for Jesus' disappearance.

Each of you will get a paper towel to wear. (See instructions & discussion cards in the lesson supplement)

We will divide you into three groups. Look at the notes on your cards for what to say during the debate. We'll have three rounds of discussion. Choose a person to speak for your group.

Who knows? Perhaps we'll discover that Jesus really rose from the dead.

### MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:3,4  
“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”



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### Debate Script

By Sammy Jamison

#### Pharisees

**Paper towels:** Drape paper towels over your heads to represent prayer shawls.

You are well-educated, important teachers who people respect and ask for guidance. You never liked Jesus. He challenged and insulted you in front of your followers, and then he did all those miracles and gained his own following. He was dangerous.

So, you had Jesus arrested and set up us so the Romans killed him. But now his body is missing. Jesus predicted he'd rise from the dead; his disciples may claim Jesus' disappearance as proof that he was the Messiah. Bad news.

#### Your Answers for the Debate:

**Round 1 — Blame Pilate!** He set this up. He didn't want to kill Jesus in the first place.

**Round 2 — Blame the Roman soldiers!** They didn't break Jesus' legs on the cross. Maybe Jesus didn't really die.

**Round 3 — Blame the Disciples!** Maybe they just saw a ghost.

#### Romans

**Paper towels:** Tuck paper towels your shirt collar to represent Roman capes.

The Roman legion is one of the world's greatest armies. You're tough, and you don't make mistakes following orders. Pilate commissioned you to guard Jesus' tomb, and because Jesus' crucifixion was political, you took special care standing guard. But now the body is gone. It looks bad for you because Roman soldiers who fail to follow orders are often execut-



ed.

#### Your Answers for the Debate:

**Round 1 — Mention the crowd** at the cross. We KNOW Jesus was dead! The people around the cross knew it too.

**Round 2 — Blame the Pharisees!** If Jesus is alive now, they must have sent the wrong man to be crucified.

**Round 3 — Blame the Disciples!** They haven't seen Jesus. They've only seen somebody in a robe in bad light; perhaps a ghost.

#### Disciples

**Paper towels:** Tuck paper towels into the front waist of your pants to represent servant aprons.

A few days ago your world collapsed—Jesus was dead. You saw it all, from his arrest to his burial. Only John was brave enough to be out front; but you hung in the shadows.

And there were hundreds of other witnesses. Then the women dragged you out to the cemetery, where the stone was rolled away and Jesus' tomb was empty! And later you were in the room when he appeared. So you know—he's alive again!

#### Your Answers for the Debate:

**Round 1 — Mention the burial process!** If Jesus had been alive, he couldn't have seen or moved wrapped in all those cloths and spices.

**Round 2 — Mention the stone!** Jesus' body was trapped behind a stone estimated to weigh at least a ton. The strongest person in the world couldn't have gotten out of that cave.

**Round 3 — Mention Jesus' real body!** Jesus appeared to his disciples in a real body. He ate food. They touched him. He was not a ghost.



# Take-Home

## Year 3 Lesson 15 — Jesus Rose from the Dead

### Summary

#### Bible Passage:

1 Corinthians 16:8-16

#### Main Point:

Jesus' resurrection is a powerful demonstration of God's love and a proof of His promise to give eternal life.

#### Discuss:

Q: Which group had the job of crucifying Jesus?

A: The Roman soldiers

Q: What was the name of the group of Jewish leaders that wanted Jesus crucified?

A: The Pharisees

Q: What does "disciple" mean?

A: A follower

Q: How much did the stone in front of Jesus' tomb weigh?

A: At least a ton

### Explore the Bible

**Read:** John chapter 20

Imagine you're with Jesus' friends, the disciples, in Jerusalem. They're sad and confused because Jesus, their beloved teacher and friend, has died on the cross. But then, something amazing happens! Jesus comes back to life! He appears to Mary Magdalene, then to the disciples, and finally to many others.

**Discuss:**

- 1) Jesus' love never dies,
- 2) God keeps His promises;
- 3) We can trust God.

### Family Activity

**Draw a picture** of Jesus' resurrection.

Include symbols like a cross, an empty tomb, and Jesus appearing to his friends.

**Write or draw** a short message about what Jesus' resurrection means to you.

### Apply and Pray

**Remember:** Jesus' resurrection is a reminder of God's love and power. It's a reason to trust Him and follow Him always.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us your love and power. Help us remember that you keep your promises and that you want to give us eternal life. Amen.