INVESTIGATING

HOW WE KNOW.
WHY WE FOLLOW.

INVESTIGATING JESUS | PART 7

When Jesus breathed his last, his *ecclesia*, his movement did as well. Rome had won. In fact, the disciples actually wrote themselves into the story as a group of people who recognized that Rome had won. They fled and gathered to decide where to go and what to do next. There were no Christians.

But then, something happened.

CONNECT

What's something you remember happening that you would have never believed had you not seen it with your own eyes?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

- Jesus's followers disengaged, but then re-engaged after many people saw him resurrected. Talk
 about the emotions they would have experienced as they saw Jesus die, then saw him alive,
 saw him leave again, and then heard him promise he would one day return.
- 2. Read Luke 24:1–12 aloud. What are some details in this account that give it credibility?
- 3. Over the course of your time together, you've read through the entire book of Luke. Take some time to reflect on this study. What stands out? How can this group help you apply what stood out?



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WRAP UP

The crucifixion of Jesus made absolutely no sense until the resurrection. The resurrection is why the story was told, because everything up until that point wasn't all that remarkable and wasn't necessarily worth repeating. Jesus's secret ambition, his ambition from the very beginning was to die, so that we could live and have a way to the Father. Take some time this week to reflect on this reality.

PRAY

Use Andy's prayer as a guide

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this ancient text. Thank you for the men and women who risked and, in some cases, gave their lives so that this text could come to us. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear, Father, for the men and the women, the teenager, the student who's reaching for the door. They're just not sure they can follow. They're just not sure they can believe anymore. I pray that today they would let go and look back up. Father, for the person who, of course, I understand is so skeptical. I get that. We all get that. Would you just do that thing that goes beyond anything I've said and just penetrate their heart and give them the courage to begin asking those questions once again. Thank you for sending us a King worth following. Thank you for inviting us into a world and into a kingdom that puts other people first, because you put us first. And we pray all these things, and thank you for all these things, in the matchless name of Jesus, our King. Amen.

