

# THE RESURRECTION

Christianity  
Beliefs

**The resurrection:** Jesus rising from the dead. An event recording in all four gospels and one of the central beliefs of Christianity.

## Evidence for the resurrection

- The tomb was empty
- Jesus' body was never found
- The disciples believed that Jesus had resurrected and 10 of them were tortured to death claiming this was true – they had no reason to lie
- Several eyewitness saw the risen Jesus
- Women found the tomb empty – if someone made the story up they would have said that men found it empty because women's testimony was not considered trustworthy
- Christians have claimed that Jesus rose again from the beginning of Christianity – it was not added later

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. **He has risen!** He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

**Mark 16**

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: 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, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. **1 Corinthians 13**

## Past Exam Questions

**Spec 1** Explain two ways in which belief in the resurrection of Jesus influences Christians today (4)

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

- gives Christians faith that they will be raised from the dead, by proving that it is possible, helps them overcome fear of death, encourages some to lay down their life for their faith
- creates faith that good can triumph over evil, so helps Christians face persecution and suffering
- proves that Jesus was God's son, so gives authority to his teaching and example and gives them stronger reason to follow his teaching.

**Spec 2** Give two reasons why the disciples' believed Jesus was alive after his Resurrection (2)

They saw him/he spoke to them/the tomb was empty/he ate with them/ it was the fulfilment of prophecy etc.