

# Luke *Following Jesus*

## 8. 'Not the End of the Road!' Luke 23.44-24.12

**Aim:** To think about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. To reflect on the hope it offers and how can this help us to continue in faith even when things seem bleak.

*Leader's Note: This study deals with a sensitive topic and, as such, you may want to only use some of it or change it to suit the needs of the group. Make sure there is plenty of time at the end for prayer and encouragement.*

### To start with:

- How do you react if someone famous or well-known dies? (e.g. Princess Diana, Michael Jackson) Do you remember where you were and how you felt?
- How do you react to stories of resurrections or remarkable healings today? Why?

### Engaging with the text:

Encourage people to try to imagine themselves into this passage; to close their eyes and try to visualise the events being described. Ask them to picture themselves as one of the following:

- the Roman centurion at the foot of the cross
- the crowds watching
- the women disciples - looking on at a distance

Now have one person *read Luke 23.33-49* slowly, while the others listen, allowing people to imagine the scene in their minds.

1. Get people to discuss their reactions, the things that struck them the most, how they 'felt' as the character they were 'being'.

### Read Luke 23.50-24.12.

2. How would you describe the reactions of the following groups to the disappearance of Jesus' body? Why do you think they reacted the way they did?
  - the women at the tomb
  - Peter
  - the other disciples
3. We live in a country that is often seen as 'sceptical' or 'cynical' about supernatural or unusual occurrence. Most of us have probably never seen someone raised from the dead either. How far do you think the resurrection of Jesus is too difficult for 'modern' people - even Christians - to believe in? Why/why not?
4. Often we concentrate on the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, rather than his resurrection. What do you think the point of the resurrection was? Why does it matter if it is true or not?

### Finally, read 1 Corinthians 15.12-28.

5. How can we take encouragement from these verses? What difference does it make to our daily discipleship that we will one day be raised from the dead, just as Jesus was?

### Pray

There may be pastoral issues that have arisen (about death or loved ones who have died) during this session, which would be good to pray with people about. Allow a good amount of time for small groups to pray for faith/encouragement about believing in their own resurrection to come, or for those they know who are dying, or for those suffering from bereavement.