

Why We Believe the Bible

International Bible Lesson

Luke 24:36-53

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“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44—KJV).

“Then he said to them, “These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true” (Luke 24:44—GNB).

“Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44—NRSV).

Jesus used a variety of means to convince His followers (and those who would learn of Him from their testimony) that after He died He rose from the dead and walked on Earth. After He explained the scriptures to the two on the road to Emmaus, He opened their eyes and they recognized Him (Luke 24:31). As the disciples listened to the report of the two who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared to them and gave them verbal and physical proof that He lived. Then, He pointed them to what the scriptures taught about Him and He “opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:36, 45).

When Jesus began His public ministry, He helped people believe the truth about God by explaining the scriptures to them. Before He ascended into heaven, He once again helped His disciples understand how the scriptures foretold and taught about His work in the world. Jesus never just pointed to a verse or two about himself; instead, He explained what was written about Him by Moses, the prophets, and the writers of the psalms. And just as He opened the eyes, hearts, and minds of His disciples at His appearances to them, He promised them, “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:26; see also John 15:26 and 16:13). Today, the Holy Spirit still helps Jesus’ followers understand the scriptures.

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Thinking Further

1. When Jesus appeared to His disciples, He said, “Peace be with you.” Why did He say that and what did He mean?

2. Why would it be important for Jesus to prove to them that He was not a ghost?

3. Why do you think God the Father and Jesus decided to leave the marks of His crucifixion on His hands and feet rather than remove these scars when they glorified His resurrected human body?

4. Why did Jesus ask His disciples for fish to eat but did not ask for anything to drink?

5. From these verses, what are all followers of Jesus supposed to tell others about Jesus, and why is this Good News?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.