



Verses related to Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection: Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 22-24; John 19-21; Acts 1:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-22

Core Truth: Resurrection is the most reasonable answer to the empty tomb, but requires a belief in supernaturalism.

Prompt: Tell students to envision themselves serving as an expert witness at a trial. Let them know they have only six minutes to state their case. The question: Why he or she believes in Christianity. Give them six actual minutes to sketch out their defense. Let one or two share.

Play: Video of J. Wallace, "Cold-Case Faith" buildmomentum.org/resources

Process: Select from the following questions to help students remember, rekindle and reengage.

Note: For a full version of his material and other resources: www.coldcasechristianity.com/resources

- « For 35 years Wallace was a skeptic, but after applying forensics to faith claims, he became a believer. **How does his personal testimony inspire you?**
- « "What you presuppose will keep you from clearly seeing the truth." **What is a presupposition? How does this apply to faith inquiries?**
- « Before addressing the resurrection of Jesus, Wallace gave a case study of his son's murder. (Remember: There are only four ways to die.) He used the "judicial standard," which seeks to prove a *reasonable* answer, not just a *possible* answer. **Why does this distinction matter?**
- « **Read** 1 Corinthians 15:1-22. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' resurrection?
- « Citing *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Habermas & Licona) Wallace enumerates four bare minimum facts about Jesus all scholars agree on. **What are the four irreducible truths?**
 1. Jesus was crucified and buried.
 2. The tomb was empty and no one ever produced his body.
 3. His disciples believed they saw the risen Jesus.
 4. The disciples were transformed following their alleged resurrection observations.
- « **What are the seven explanatory possibilities Wallace gives for the empty tomb?**
 1. The disciples were wrong.
 2. They were lying.
 3. They were delusional.
 4. They were fooled.
 5. They were influenced.
 6. They were distorted.
 7. They were accurate.
- « **How does he argue for the unreasonableness of the first three explanatory possibilities?**

- ⌘ Due to time constraints, Wallace was not able to discredit possibilities 4 to 6. ***What evidence would you raise to prove the disciples were fooled, influenced or distorted as unreasonable?***
- ⌘ “The Christian explanation [of the empty tomb] has a problem,” Wallace concluded. ***What is the problem he referred to?***
- ⌘ Wallace accused atheists (he was one formerly) of “a bias against supernaturalism,” which is a form of circular logic. ***What is supernaturalism and what might compel an atheist to deny it?***
- ⌘ At the close of his talk, Wallace made an honest confession. He said, “I’m not a Christian because it works for me. Christianity is not convenient, popular, or easy to live out... I’m a Christian because it’s true.” ***How does this match up with your faith experience? If Christianity were not true, but convenient and popular, would you accept it?***
- ⌘ In his final, urgent call, Wallace declared, “If the yard was full of sheepdogs, we wouldn’t have a wolf problem... We need to know WHY Christianity is true, not just THAT it is true. It’s time to decide to be a sheepdog: to know what we believe and defend it.” ***What did he mean by wolves and sheepdogs? How intentional are you about defending your faith?***
- ⌘ ***Who can you introduce the Risen Jesus to?***

Pray: Remind students we serve a Risen King. Tell them the Risen Christ lives within them. Take time to thank God for the empty tomb. Ask God to grow them in their knowledge and defense of the faith.

