

BYSTANDER

JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

PART 7: INVITATION TO BELIEVE

INTRODUCTION

Following Jesus' crucifixion, his followers expected what anyone expects after someone dies—that the person would remain that way. But one of Jesus' followers, John, gave an eyewitness account that summarized the main event surrounding Christianity: Jesus rose from the dead. In this seventh and final sign that John documents, he makes the case that Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, what was Easter like for you?
2. When was the last time you were surprised by something that was completely unexpected?
3. The four Gospels focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When you think of Jesus, which of those three words most comes to mind?
4. Read John 19:16–42, where the apostle John recounts the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
 - What stands out to you about this passage?
 - What emotions must the disciples have been feeling?
5. Read John 20:1–8, 24–28, where the apostle John recounts the resurrection of Jesus.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?

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- What stands out to you about these passages?
 - Who can you relate to most from these passages: Peter, John, or Thomas? What makes you say that?
6. Read John 20:29. While many eyewitnesses believed in Jesus because of what they saw firsthand, why do you think Jesus called people—such as us—who were not eyewitnesses to the resurrection “blessed”?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30–31