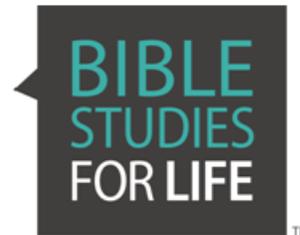


## Special Focus Session — EXTRA! Ideas for Adults

Date: April 16, 2017

He Is Risen

The Point: The resurrection of Jesus is a fact you can build your life on.



### Get Into the Study

Use the following information to supplement Question #1.

Begin by sharing the following news story:

In March 2017, the people of Innisfail, Australia, broke a world record – by building the longest banana split ever made. Their record-breaking banana split was almost 26,378 feet long and used 40,000 bananas. The people of Innisfail grow and sell bananas, as the main industry of the region. It took volunteers almost 12 hours to build the banana split. The Guinness World Records reports that the previous record for longest banana split was set by the residents of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, in 1988 when they built a banana split that measured 24,015 feet, 8 inches long.

Say: We might want to “see it to believe” for this record-breaking banana split.

Then read Question #1 (When have you said, “You have to see it to believe it!”)(PSG p. 82) and invite volunteers to respond to the question.

Information for this post was gleaned from here:

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2017/3/residents-of-innisfail-australia-break-world-record-with-8km-long-banana-split-467309>

— Donna McKinney wrote this Leader Extra. Donna is retired from a career with the federal government of the United States. She is a veteran Bible study group leader living in North Carolina.

### Study the Bible

Use the following illustration to supplement your group's engagement with Luke 24:36-40. In a world where even reality can be altered, we can hold fast to the historical truth of Jesus' death and resurrection.

From the advancement of gaming systems to the smart phone, Americans continue to feed their obsession with latest tech gadgets. For 2017, the Virtual Reality Visor (VR) will dominate the tech spotlight and is already sweeping consumers off their feet (almost literally). Users wear the visor like glasses and are immersed into any world of their choosing with the sophistication of an amusement park experience, feeling as if they are actually experiencing the events on the visor screen.

Watch commercial for VR here detailing consumer experiences and responses (less than two minutes):

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEL1o1jN0cU\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEL1o1jN0cU)

- Why do you think people enjoy using a VR?
- How does the use of a VR subtly chip away at the concepts of fantasy and reality?
- Why is it often controversial to claim knowledge of something factual, such as the resurrection? How is this reality challenged in our culture?

- How can Christians effectively engage a world obsessed with virtual/alternate reality experiences and with steadfastness, champion the facts of Jesus' life and work on earth?

As the world changes, Christian must steadfastly share the unchanging gospel with acute awareness of their culture. We live in a world where fixed realities (gender, race, biology, etc.) are now relative; this makes the urgency of the facts surrounding the life, death and resurrection of Jesus even greater.

*Emily Jennings (M.A., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) lives in the metro-Atlanta area and teaches the Bible at First Baptist Church Woodstock. She is married to Brian, has three wonderful sons and pretends to be a runner. Find her on Instagram and Twitter: [@emilyejenn](#)*

## Additional Questions

Icebreaker

- Where do you turn for answers?
- Who do you think is the most authoritative person today?
- On a scale of 1 (very gullible) to 10 (hyper critical), where do you see yourself and why?
- What are some of the biggest hoaxes in history? How were they revealed?
- What are some ways we decide whether something is believable?
- When was that last time you experienced overwhelming, joyous surprise?

**Luke 24:1-6a**

- How do you suppose the followers of Jesus felt after His crucifixion?
- Do you think it would have been natural for Jesus' followers to doubt His resurrection? Why or why not?
- When did you first learn about Jesus' resurrection?
- Why is it significant that Luke mentioned the role of women as witnesses to the resurrection?
- How can we live as "resurrection people" each day? How would that affect our witness to others?
- Which details from the first 6 verses of Luke 6 give support that this is a chronicling of actual events, rather than a story made up to appeal to the masses?
- How can we connect the central truths of the Gospel message to our everyday lives?

**Luke 24:6b-8**

- On numerous occasions Jesus warned his followers He would die. Why do you think they missed this?
- How has remembering God's Word helped you in a crisis?
- What are some of the ways our culture explains away Jesus' resurrection?
- Why do you think it's important to memorize God's Word?
- Why is it tough to remember what Jesus says sometimes? How can we do a better job remembering His words?
- How does the Gospel message connect to our pursuit of obedience?
- Can you think of an event in your life that the resurrection has changed?

**Luke 24:36-40**

- Why did Jesus insist His disciples touch Him?
- If you were in that room on that day, how would have reacted to seeing Jesus?
- While Jesus does not physically reveal himself to us today, how does He encourage our faith and bring us out of doubt?
- What is one thing you could do to build your faith this week?

- In what specific ways has Christ given you peace?
- How did the disciples' encounter with Jesus change their lives? How is that proof of His resurrection?
- In what ways can an up-close examination of Jesus' death and resurrection increase our faith?
- Where and how did you first understand the reality of Jesus?