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*Background*

Jesus of Nazareth suffered crucifixion. Crucifixion was an excruciating execution for crimes like treason against the Roman Empire. Jesus claimed to the king of the Jews, God’s King. The Jewish leaders charged Jesus with blasphemy. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. After His death, He was immediately buried on a Friday at dusk. Saturday was the Sabbath, a day of rest. On the first day of the week, early Sunday morning, while the dawn was coming, a group of Jesus’ women followers came to pay their respects. But, the grave was empty. They ran to tell Jesus’ disciples. Peter and John ran and checked out the empty tomb and returned home. Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb. Then Jesus appeared to her. Later that day, he appeared to Simon Peter, then to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Then later that evening, Jesus appeared to Ten of His disciples at one time. Judas Iscariot had died, and one disciple was absent, Thomas. After he heard about the other disciples’ experience, Thomas was plagued with doubts. It was just impossible. Jesus’ hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and he was pierced through His side. How could He be alive? A whole week goes by. The disciples gather again on a Sunday evening. This time Thomas is present.

**If the disciples hallucinated the risen Christ…**

1. **How can Jesus appear to \_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**2. Why do Jesus’ enemies never produce His \_\_\_\_?**

***So What?***

* **The resurrection \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the crucified criminal as the Son of God!**

**Jesus’ Story**

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