



## WATCH PURPOSE Part 1

- We all want our lives to mean something. We all need purpose. But the reality of death makes us wonder. “What’s the point?”
- In our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Western culture. We tend to deal with the problem of death in three ways:
  - We deny it.
  - We downplay it.
  - We despair about it.
- To find meaning in life, we need an answer to death



## DISCUSS

We’ve heard about some different attitudes towards purpose in life. But what about you? Where do you look for a sense of purpose?



## WATCH PURPOSE Part 2

- Jesus died on Friday. On Sunday morning, something happened that can rob death of its power and give life the purpose we long for
- When the women arrived at Jesus’ tomb, it was empty. Two angels told them “He is not here, he is risen” (Luke 24:6)
- This is hard to believe – then as now. The disciples dismissed it as “nonsense”, but in the years that followed they gave their lives for this claim. So, what changed?
- Later on, Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to his disciples and proved that it was really him, really risen.
- Is there a better explanation for the empty tomb and for the transformation in Jesus’ followers? The bible doesn’t ask you to shut your eyes and make a leap of faith. Instead, it encourages you to open your eyes, look at the evidence and make a step of faith.
- If the resurrection is true, then it is wonderful. It means that Jesus can be our “Everlasting father”, who sorts out death and gives us meaningful work with an eternal impact. “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58).
- Will you take Jesus to be your “Wonderful Counsellor”?



## EXPLORE

1. Think back over what we have just heard. What most surprised, intrigued or puzzled you about the Christian hope of life beyond death, and how that gives life now purpose?

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Throughout this series, we've been thinking about hope as a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present. But can we be confident that Jesus; resurrection is true- that he really did rise from the dead? That's what we will consider now.

2. Read through the account of that Sunday morning and evening. Underline places where we're being offered evidence for the claim that "[Jesus] has risen!" (Verse 6)

**SPICES** | Used in that culture to prepare a body for burial  
**THE ELEVEN** | Jesus' closest followers.  
**STRIPS OF LINEN** | What a body was wrapped in before burial  
**BROILED** | Cooked over a fire  
**THE LAW OF MOSES, THE PROPHETS & THE PSALMS** | The Jewish Scriptures, written hundreds of years before. These can be found in the Old Testament section of the Christian Bible.

### READ LUKE 24

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" 8 Then they remembered his words...

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

### [Later that evening]

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."



# HOPE | EXPLORED SESSION 3 | PURPOSE

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

3. Which claims do you find most striking? Are there any claims which you are less convinced by?

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4. We’ve heard that Jesus is the “Everlasting Father”, who sorts out the problem of death and gives meaning to life. If Jesus did rise from the dead, what difference do you think it could make to:

- The way we view our own lives? (See 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58)
  
- The way we face the reality of death?

5. A Christian is someone who has committed to living with Jesus as their “Wonderful Counsellor” – the one who takes direction of their life. Who else might we be looking to for direction in our life?

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Thinking about all that we’ve seen of Jesus in these three sessions, how do you feel about the idea of Jesus taking direction of your life?

Over the course of *Hope Explored*, we’ve been thinking about Christian Hope as a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past which changes everything about my present.

6. Looking back over the last three sessions, what have you found most thought-provoking, reassuring or surprising about the Christian view of:

- The Future – where the world is headed and what Jesus promises for the future?
- The Past – Who Jesus is and what he did during his time on earth?
- The Present – what difference Jesus can make to our lives today?