

A Christian's faith is defined by three essential considerations:

1. A historical fact: Resurrection

Luke 24:1-8 (NLT) - But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." ⁸Then they remembered that he had said this.

Four historical facts which must be reckoned:

- a) Jesus' death and burial
- b) The empty tomb
- c) His appearances after death
- d) His follower's belief in His resurrection

2. A theological truth: Redemption

Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT) - But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵God sent him to buy freedom for (redeem) us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

3. A personal experience: Relationship

Matthew 16:13-16 (NLT) - When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

STUDY GUIDE

1. Take a moment to share with others in your group (or to articulate on your own) your story of coming to know Jesus. What were the determining factors? What was happening in your life at the time?
2. What has your salvation experience meant to you since then? How has it changed you? How has it challenged you?
3. Why is the role of eyewitnesses so significant in the story of Jesus' resurrection? Re-read Luke 24 and note the various accounts.
4. How would you describe your own eyewitness account to a skeptic? Remember there's no pressure to be eloquent or overtly articulate. It is enough to share your own experience.