

Luke 24 | Alive!

Luke 24:1-7, 36-39, 41-47

Based on NLT

Luke 24:1-4

...very early on Sunday morning (*after Jesus' death*) the women went to the tomb *to prepare Jesus' body (according to their custom)*. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find *his* body...Two men *dressed in dazzling robes suddenly appeared to them*.

Luke 24:5-7

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking *in a tomb* for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He *has* risen from the dead! Remember what he told you...that *He* must be betrayed...and be *executed*, and that he would rise again on the third day."

Luke 24:36-37

Later when the followers were gathered, they were talking about these things. Suddenly, Jesus himself was standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said. But the whole group was...frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!*

Luke 24:38-39

"Why *do you doubt?*" he asked.
... "Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies..."

Luke 24:41-43

Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of...fish, and he ate it...

Luke 24:44-47

Then *Jesus explained to them that all this took place to fulfill God's plan, that he, the Promised Savior** would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. "*This is the Good News you must take to all peoples.*"

Why This Story?

This story, in some form, is necessary for any redemptive Bible story set. This particular story has also been used effectively in a *Purpose* themed story set. It effectively emphasizes that God has a plan which he fulfills, and that God commissions us with a plan.

Story Crafting

Be sure that your audience understands clearly that Jesus was dead, but is now alive.

You may find that it is more readily understood to state explicitly that the men dressed in white are angels. We know this from Luke 24:23, and it may avoid confusion in cultures where wearing white is the traditional dress of mourners.

You may want to make explicit that the reason Jesus asked for something to eat was to prove that he was not a ghost.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Angels*

If you have a Bible translation, your best option would be to use the word in the translation, unless no one outside the church understands it. If you don't have a Bible translation, your challenge is to find a word that accurately conveys the meaning of the original. An 'angel' is a supernatural, spiritual being who is a messenger from God. Angels appear to humans in human form, they are inferior to Jesus, and they often come with a specific message or to do a specific task. If there is no word in the language for 'angel' that a non-believer would understand, you could translate this as

'messenger of/from God,' 'envoy of God,' or perhaps 'ambassador of God.' Be aware, though, that 'prophet' also conveys those meanings. You might have to add 'spirit (messenger from God)' to this description.

Followers*

If the language has an understood term for the devoted followers of a guru, you may use that term here. We've designated the twelve disciples as 'closest followers' and the other disciples simply as 'followers.' You may want to differentiate between the two groups in the same way, as well.

Promised Savior*

'Savior,' as used in the New Testament, means 'one who saves from spiritual and eternal danger.' Often, the wholeness of man includes both physical and spiritual aspects which are difficult to distinguish, but the actual term 'savior' in the New Testament is used only for Jesus as a spiritual deliverer. 'Promised Savior' is also the word we've chosen to use for the English version of the stories as the term to describe who Jesus is—the Messiah, the Christ, the Promised Savior. We've chosen, for the audience's first exposure to the gospel, to use a consistent term for Jesus' role in God's redemptive plan throughout the story set.

Later, it could be helpful to introduce other terms that have similar meanings (such as 'Christ,' 'Messiah,' 'Promised King,' 'Anointed One,' etc.). The terms 'Christ' and 'Messiah' have the same meaning, namely, 'the person who is anointed (i.e. appointed) by God for a special purpose.' Anointing with oil was the symbol of being appointed and set apart by God for a position of authority and responsibility, especially for kingship, or as a High Priest (*Key*

Biblical Terms in the New Testament). Many aspects of Jesus' roles and character are implied in the term 'Anointed One,' including his kingship over all the nations, his role as God's representative, his role as the means of bringing about God's victory over his enemies, and finally, as the one appointed to accomplish redemption for God's people. We are told in translation resources that as we search for a way to translate 'Messiah,' or 'Christ,' we should search for a term that includes the concepts of one who is specially appointed by God, and one who is savior or king.

Some languages do not have an appropriate personal noun that expresses the idea of savior, and it needs to be translated 'the one who saves,' or 'the saving person.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words for **followers**, **angels**, and **Promised Savior** that you have used in previous stories.

When Jesus tells his followers to look at his hands and feet, he is referring them to the marks left by the nails that nailed him to the cross.

all this took place to fulfill God's plan

It is important to include the fact that Jesus said this in order to refer the hearer back to the prophecies that they've heard already in the story set.

Worldview

At that time, it was believed that the bodiless spirits of the deceased could appear as ghosts. Jesus proves to the disciples that he is not a ghost by showing them he has a body. You want

to make sure that it is understood that the disciples were wrong in thinking that Jesus was a ghost. He was a living, resurrected person.

In vegetarian cultures you may choose to say simply that Jesus ate some food, rather than specifying that it was a fish.

Story Set Themes

Purpose
Relationship
Victory