

## **SO MANY QUESTIONS**

### ***Question 2: Did Jesus really come back from the dead?***

#### **Think about it**

1. What kind of question is this?
  - a. Knowing
  - b. Meaning
  - c. Living
  
2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

#### **Summarize your answer**

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question “Did Jesus really come back from the dead?”

**Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊**

## **For further thought:**

### ***Did Jesus really come back from the dead?***

- Firstly, if it didn't happen, everything Christianity stands for falls apart. Christianity is about much more than moral instruction.
- By and large, the New Testament was written to people who had already been persuaded that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Those close to the event were convinced that it had taken place.
- Jesus' tomb was empty. Jesus was executed and put into a tomb which was then guarded. But on the Sunday after his death, the tomb was found to be empty.
- After he rose, Jesus appeared to a whole range of people—even up to 500 people at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). These appearances lasted 40 days and then stopped.
- A significant number of people who saw Jesus raised spent the rest of their lives on earth suffering persecution and loneliness, and travelling to the ends of the earth to tell people about Jesus. They were convinced that Jesus was alive. In turn, so many people were convinced by their testimony, Christianity spread rapidly throughout the Roman empire.

## **Other approaches:**

- Some people want to dismiss the resurrection “because dead people don't rise”. The problem with this view is that it assumes that dead people don't rise in order to prove that they don't. It not only leaves God out of the picture, it also assumes, by this logic, that nothing new can ever happen. We should examine the evidence instead of dismissing it in a close-minded way.

## **Further reading:**

- Peter Bolt, “Questing for Jesus”, *kategoria*, no. 8, 1998, pp. 9-31.
- Frank Morison, *Who Moved the Stone?*, Authentic Media, Carlisle, 2006.
- Kel Richards, *Defending the Gospel*, Matthias Media, Sydney, 2006, chapter 6.