

# Discipleship Moment

**Text: Matthew 28:11-15**

This is the worst cover up in history. Okay, that may be a bit of an overstatement. This is at least the most well-known cover up story in history. But even with all the improbabilities of this cover story—the sleeping guards (who were trained to stay awake at all costs), the moved stones and the left linens (as if the disciples could move the stone, unwrap a dead body, and carry it away without the guards noticing or waking up)—this story is still more believable than the resurrection to some.

We as humans want all the answers. We like to pretend that we know everything about everything. We claim to know what other people are thinking, or what their intentions were (just spend some time watching the news or reading the comment section of news reports online). Or, we will project intentions to people's actions: if someone doesn't say hello to us as we pass them on the street or at church, or if someone said something that was a little rude, we will often times assume that there is some sort of meanness or intention to what they said or what they did. We will try to assume and explain anything we don't know we try to fill in the gaps. This is the classic sitcom story line: one person says something that is misunderstood, and the other character doesn't ask for clarification but asks everyone else around them what that person meant when they said that, and eventually there is a big blow up between the characters and it turns out to all be a huge, hilarious, misunderstanding.

Filling in these gaps in evidence with assumption is natural. We all do it, every day. This is called deductive reasoning. We take the evidence available to us, and we add our own assumptions, then we draw a conclusion (Sherlock Holmes is the master of this kind of reasoning).

The problem with deductive reasoning is that it relies on our knowledge and our assumptions to fill in the gaps. Temple guards (no matter how well trained), makes more sense to us than someone coming back to life. Our assumptions about how the world works (dead things stay dead) dictate the way we interpret the evidence.

The problem is this: are assumptions are always right. When we assume mean intent behind a word or an interaction with someone, most the time that assumption is wrong. The Police or Detectives can deduce guilt behind someone's behavior, but they are not always right. And all of our evidence and assumptions would make us believe that dead people don't come back to life.

But something happened: Jesus came back. Many people (who had nothing to gain but trouble at the time) saw him and proclaimed his resurrection. We are going to continue to explore the ways that Jesus met with people after his resurrection and many of our assumptions will be challenged.

Truth is stranger than fiction in our faith. A dead man has come back to life.

## Going Deeper

*Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once*

1. Have you ever tried to cover up something you did? What was it, and how did that go?
2. Do you think the resurrection is believable? Why do you think some people don't believe it?
3. What assumptions do people make about the resurrection (is it a problem of science, how it was recorded in the Bible, etc.)? What assumptions do you make about the resurrection?
4. How can we take away our assumptions about the world?
5. How does removing our (or others') assumptions change the way we read the stories about Jesus' resurrection?
6. Do you feel like you have proof for your faith? Why or why not?