



You will need:

- Blindfolds and mystery items for the 'See, touch, taste' challenge (and perhaps a sharp knife for foodstuffs)
- A piece of cooked fish for 'Jesus' to eat
- A briefed volunteer from the audience to play the part of Jesus

Highlighted in yellow are the words of an actor playing the part of Jesus.

The Story

Intro: Touch, Smell, Taste challenge.

Ask for 2 pairs of "Dad and child" as volunteers - ideally children need to be over 8. Blindfold them. Have prepared 1 item for each pair for each of these 3 senses. Show the congregation the item before giving it to the pair. Can the pairs compete to identify the items?

Link: It's amazing how even with a blindfold, you can have some idea of what is in front of you. As we use our senses, we become certain of what is in front of us. I want to tell you a true Bible story, where the senses made Jesus' friends *certain* that the thing that seemed impossible, was actually happening, right in front of them.

Right- Where are we in the Bible? Today we're remembering Jesus' resurrection. That is Jesus rising from the dead, after he had been killed on a cross, and his body left in a tomb for three days. As the sun came up on Sunday morning the women found the empty tomb, where his body should have been. *Now*, we're looking at the moment when Jesus' closest friends are together in a small locked room, trying to understand what is happening. Is Jesus alive? Or dead? Where is his body? Is this possible?

We're going to go through this story in three moments. Here's the first...



1. They couldn't believe Jesus was alive

They were talking about all this, trying to make sense of it... and Jesus appeared in front of them and said,

A briefed volunteer steps out of the congregation and speaks, "Peace be with you."

Read v37, "They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost"

"Don't be upset. Why do you doubt that it's me? Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." Touch the volunteer. Prod his side, hands.

→ **It's reassuring.** It's reassuring because we find it hard to believe in the resurrection. We find it hard to believe that there was a moment when a man dead for three days, opened his eyes, never to die again. *They* knew for certain. They saw him. Touched him. So that *we* can be certain that Jesus rose from the dead.

That's moment 1. They were reassured that Jesus *was* alive because they saw him and touched him.

Moment 2...

2. They couldn't understand that his body is real

Read v41, "And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement he asked..."

"Do you have any food here?"

They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes. *[Actually do that!]* And they watched him eat it.

→ **It's exciting.** It's exciting to be sure that he had a body that ate and walked and laughed and played football. Because that means that one day we can have a resurrection body, just like his. Those who trust in Jesus will be able to eat stuff in Heaven, walk, laugh and play football, forever. You don't have to play football forever! I'm just saying you'll be able to.



So Moment 1. They were reassured that Jesus *was* alive because they saw him and touched him.
Moment 2. We can be excited because Jesus ate food to show he was really alive again, so we know that one day we will be, too.

Moment 3...

1. They understood it all when he showed them the Bible

Then he said,

“Everything I told you while I was with you comes down to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to come true.”

This is brain aching moment. *[Hold up your Bible, with the Old Testament held between your fingers to show it to the congregation]* Jesus says that the whole Old Testament is about Him. So when...

- a. The Passover lamb died in the place of others in ancient Egypt, that was showing us Jesus – he would die in the place of us.
- b. David and Goliath, that weak kid from Bethlehem, who beat the giant that everyone else feared, that was showing us Jesus – the weak kid from Bethlehem, who beat the giants of sin and death that we fear.
- c. You know the Psalm- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. That was about Jesus – the best shepherd who promises to give us all that we need.

Read v45, “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures”

➔ **It’s necessary.** It’s necessary to keep reading the Bible to learn more about Jesus. Now they got it. How it was all planned. How it had all been explained for thousands of years. Now they knew he was God. As a man. Raised to rule. They had to keep reading their Bibles. To understand the impossible. Just as we do. Keep reading your Bibles, if you want to know Jesus.

Can you remember what we’ve seen?

Moment 1. They understood that Jesus *was* alive because they saw him and touched him. We can be sure that this is true because they really saw it.



Moment 2. They understood that Jesus had a real body, because he ate food. We can be excited because we will have real bodies in heaven, just like his.

Moment 3. They understood that the whole Bible was all about Jesus. We need to keep reading our Bibles if we want to know more about Jesus and live for him.

Conclusion:

It is still 'unbelievable' that Jesus rose from the dead. It is impossible to imagine that it happened.

Except Jesus understood exactly how hard it was for his first disciples, and for us, to believe it, so he used their senses so that they could be certain. And we must be certain, because if the resurrection is real it changes everything- we can believe he rose from the dead, we can trust in our life after dead and we can enjoy finding out more about Jesus.

Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Do you believe that one day you will be resurrected to live with him?



Top Tips

Intro sense challenge

Below are examples of what could be used. Choose two for each sense. It's good to pick items that are large enough so that the congregation can see what it is you're using.

Touch (*place it in their hands- the Dad and then the child*)

- Pritt stick
- Tape measure
- Piece of fruit- strawberry, peach, etc
- Pasta shell

Smell (*place this up against their nose- the Dad and then the child*)

- Mustard
- Coffee
- Garlic (*cut a bulb open*)
- Shampoo

Taste

- Ketchup (*Squeeze a little onto a spoon*)
- Lemon (*Squeeze a little onto a spoon*)
- Cucumber (*cut a small cube*)
- Popcorn (*place one into their mouth*)