

## SESSION 9

# THE EMPTY TOMB

## SESSION AIMS

To explore the death and resurrection of Jesus, the historical evidence for these events, and why they were an integral part of his mission.

## BIBLE REFERENCE

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

## GAME: MURDER MYSTERY

Imagine you are a trainee detective! What can you learn about the murder of Rev V. Goody from the following evidence? Consider the reliability of the source and whether their evidence is backed up by anything else.

### Source A

Source A comes from the victim's brother, Mr N.S. Goody, who witnessed his death"

*"I saw Mrs B. Body handing him a drink on the night of the party after they'd had a heated disagreement about village gossip. He drank it and clutched at his throat, gasping for air and turning the most awful shade of purple. Within two minutes he was stone cold dead!"*

### Source B

Source B comes from the forensics expert who examined Rev Goody's glass which was collected by police after his death:

*"I found traces of cyanide in the glass. Additionally, the fingerprints on the glass matched Rev Goody, Mrs B. Body and one other unknown person."*

### Source C

Source C is from Mrs B. Body and was taken one week after Rev Goody's death:

*"I didn't have anything to do with it! I hardly knew Rev Goody and I'm no gossip! I wasn't even at the party."*

### Source D

Source D is from Miss A. Libi, Mrs. Body's sister and was taken two weeks after Rev Goody's death:

*"I spent the night of the party with my sister. We had a takeaway round my house and watched a DVD."*

## WEEK 8 RECAP

Last time we began looking at the New Testament of the Bible. We thought about Jesus coming to earth and explored why the Christmas story is about so much more than just a baby being born. All through the Old Testament, God had promised a Saviour, someone who would deal with the problem of sin, and in Jesus those promises were finally fulfilled.

When Jesus grew up, he began to teach people about God's Kingdom and he did many miracles, showing God's love and power and pointing people to the fact that he was the Messiah who had been promised. Many people believed in him and chose to follow him, but there were also others who opposed him.

# **WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?**

This week we're going to look at how Jesus' ministry on earth culminated in his death at the hands of Roman soldiers. This was at the request of people who had turned out to worship him only a week earlier. We'll explore why the Son of God did nothing to defend himself from this violent persecution, and how he came back to life again three days later. We'll consider the evidence for this miraculous event and ask ourselves if it is possible to believe in a man coming back to life in an age of great scientific discovery.

## **WATCH THE EPISODE**

### **GROUP WORK**

**Read John 10:17-18. Discuss: Have you considered why Jesus allowed himself to die when he could have prevented it? What do you think and why?**

- *Jesus allowed himself to die to fulfil his Father's command. He chooses to give up his life because of his love for humanity.*
- *The Father loves Jesus for giving up his life for his people.*

**Why do you think people believe that other famous events from history are true, but not the events of Jesus' life?**

*It may be easier to believe in a historical figure whose life has very little impact on your own. If we believe the evidence for Jesus, we are confronted with the need to make a decision about whether it is true, and whether we want to alter our lives in response.*

**Are you convinced by the evidence for Jesus' death and resurrection? Why/why not? What would it take to convince you?**

*Allow pupils to express their thoughts about whether the evidence is compelling for them or not, and any doubts they may have.*

### **PRAY TO CLOSE**