

Believe It or Not

OPENING QUESTION

What has scared you in the past.

READ **Matthew 28:1—20.**

1. Why did the two Marys go to the tomb Sunday morning?

- A. They wanted to anoint Christ's body with spices.
- B. They needed a break from being around scared disciples.
- C. It was on the way to Starbucks.
- D. They expected Jesus to be resurrected, as he had said.
- E. To check and see whether or not soldiers still guarded the tomb.
- F. They did pilates on Tuesday and Thursday; this was their day to walk.
- G. They were still in the grieving process from Christ's death.
- H. The disciples sent them.
- I. Other.

2. Why were the guards so scared?

- A. This was the second squad; they weren't as brave as the first crew.
- B. They were just coming off the night shift.
- C. The supernatural showed itself as indeed being supernatural.
- D. The earthquake did the first shaking.
- E. Their dead package they were to guard walked away, alive.
- F. The Roman seal on the tomb increased Rome's responsibility.
- G. Fear of reprisals the religious leaders might take.
- H. After what they had done to Jesus, they expected payback.
- I. Other.

3. Why did the angel tell the women do not to be afraid?

- A. That's the most common first message when angels speak to humans.
- B. They were women; they got scared easily.
- C. The earthquake already made them wobbly.
- D. This stands in contrast to what happened to the male guards.
- E. There really was no reason to be afraid.
- F. The guards were running by at the time, and they were freaked out.
- G. When a human sees an angel, it's enough to make any human afraid.
- H. The angel would protect them from any potential harm.
- I. Other.

4. What were the key messages the women were to give the disciples?

- A. Jesus had been resurrected.
- B. Tell the disciples about this SOON.
- C. You will see Jesus again.
- D. We got to see Jesus, and you didn't.
- E. There's evidence for Christ's resurrection.
- F. Jesus isn't here now.
- G. You should have paid better attention; he told you all this in advance.
- H. Other.

5. Why did Jesus show himself to the women?

- A. They were there—presence matters.
- B. They were more likely to believe.
- C. To provide additional evidence for the disciples.
- D. To counter the lie the soldiers spread.
- E. So one day women could be ordained.
- F. Jesus likes females more than males.
- G. To test others' faith to believe the word of those marginalized.
- H. Other.

6. Why did the Roman soldiers take the bribe from the religious leaders?

- A. It was good money.
- B. They were so scared they were ready to do anything.
- C. The religious leaders were very convincing.
- D. Pilate promised to not hold them accountable.
- E. The story the religious leaders came up with seemed so plausible.
- F. Many of them came to regret it later.
- G. It was all in a day's work for them; they never thought of it again.
- H. Other.

7. How much would you have to be paid to NOT tell others about the resurrection of Jesus?

8. What is your paraphrase of the "Gospel Commission" (vs 18-20)?