

LESSON 39

The Resurrection

MATTHEW 28:1-10



BIBLE TRUTH

EVEN THOUGH JESUS TRULY ROSE FROM THE DEAD, NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 117)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 39—one for each child; markers or crayons

The Power of the Resurrection

SUPPLIES: dark cloth to cover windows to help darken the room; a work light with a reflector (Don’t use more than a 500-watt bulb so the children’s eyes will not be harmed. Also, remember that lights can get very hot. You can also use a bright LED flashlight, but you will have to move the beam of the light to briefly shine at the children’s eyes.)

Bringing Back the Dead

SUPPLIES: a dead, dried out plant; sheets to create a tomb area; strips of white fabric for grave clothes

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Use these questions to introduce today's lesson:

- Does anyone know what we celebrate on Easter Sunday?
(Jesus' resurrection from the dead)

- Why is that important?
(Take almost any answer. Only adjust where absolutely necessary.)

- What details do you remember about Easter and the resurrection?
(Accept any appropriate answers.)

- Is there anything in the world more powerful than God? An elephant? A whale? A tornado? Death?
(All answers are no.)

Take time to pray and thank God for his wonderful and awesome power. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 117, "The Resurrection," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What happened in this story?
(Jesus was raised by God from the dead.)

- Did anyone see Jesus being raised?

(The soldiers were blinded by the light. The angels and God the Father saw it, and later Jesus appeared to the women visiting his tomb.)

- Why is the resurrection important to us?

(The resurrection proves Jesus was who he said he was—God’s Son—and it demonstrates God’s power over sin and death. If Jesus rose from the dead, then all who trust in him can be risen and live with him forever in heaven.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is your favorite part of the resurrection?

(Accept any answer.)

- What is your favorite part of Easter?

(Though they might say candy or Easter bunnies, help them to see that both this and the previous question are one and the same. We should keep our focus on Christ and his death and resurrection when we think of Easter.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Jesus is no longer in the tomb! This is one of the most critical parts of the gospel. Paul said it like this: “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain....If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:13–14, 17).

Paul goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 15:20–23 that Christ is the “firstfruits” (the first to be raised) and that we will also be raised. If Jesus had died but not risen again, we would all be lost. The resurrection is not an add-on to the cross. It is an integral part of the gospel message without which the gospel would have no power!

- What do we learn about God from the resurrection?

(God is all-powerful, even over death. We learn that Jesus was able to take upon himself the sins of the world, be punished for them by the Father, and live again because he lived a sinless life and did not deserve to die.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 39—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is happening in the picture?

(Jesus is rising from the dead with great power.)

- What day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? How do we celebrate that day?

(Jesus rose on Sunday. We follow the example of the early church, gathering together for church on that day. Sunday has since been called the Lord's Day.)

- What holiday celebrates Jesus rising from the dead?

(Easter)

- What should we celebrate on Easter—Jesus or Easter bunnies?

(Easter bunnies do not point to the resurrection of Christ. It is Jesus rising from the dead that makes this day special. The resurrection of Christ tells us that Jesus was victorious. He died for our sins and rose that we could also one day rise and be with him in heaven.)

The Power of the Resurrection

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a work light with a reflector (Don't use more than a 500-watt bulb so the children's eyes will not be harmed. Also, remember that lights can get very hot. You can also use a bright LED flashlight, but you will have to move the beam of the light to briefly shine at the children's eyes.)
- ✓ dark cloth to cover windows to help darken the room

Retell the story of the resurrection with the lights off in your classroom. Cover the windows if possible to block out the light. Tell the children that they are playing the role of the guards. When it comes to the light bursting forth in the story, turn the work light on, facing the children. The children should fall down like dead men just as the guards did in the story. After you finish telling the story, ask the children the following questions:

■ Why is this story amazing?

This story is amazing because Jesus who had died had risen again. Not only is this amazing because Jesus was physically dead, this is even more amazing because the wrath of God was poured out upon him for our sins. Jesus' resurrection declares that God has accepted his sacrifice for us.

■ What words would you use to describe what happened?

(Help the children redefine words like awesome, amazing, spectacular, which sometimes lose their meaning from overuse.)

Bringing Back the Dead

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a dead, dried-out plant
- ✓ sheets to create a tomb area
- ✓ strips of white fabric for grave clothes

One week before class purchase a small plant from a nursery. Do not water it. Let it dry out and die. Or, you can place it in your oven on very low heat for a few hours if it has a ceramic pot.

In the classroom, hang the sheets from the ceiling in a tentlike fashion. Put a small table inside, and cover the table with another sheet. Lay the strips of fabric across

the table. (You can also create a tomb by draping a sheet over a table, leaving one long side open to create the tomb cavity. It will seem short to you, but the kids won't care.)

Act out the scene after the resurrection. Have a couple of the children play the two Marys. Have the other children watch as the angel (played by a teacher) speaks the words from Matthew 28:5–7. The two Marys can run back over to the rest of the class and tell them what they saw.

After you act out your skit, very casually ask a volunteer for some help. Once you get a volunteer, bring the plant out and ask the volunteer to speak to the plant and bring it back from the dead. Be insistent, as though raising the plant from the dead is an easy thing. Draw out from the children how exceptional God's power is to raise Jesus. He alone has power over life and death.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 39 - THE RESURRECTION

