

RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-49;



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY



February 12, 2012

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

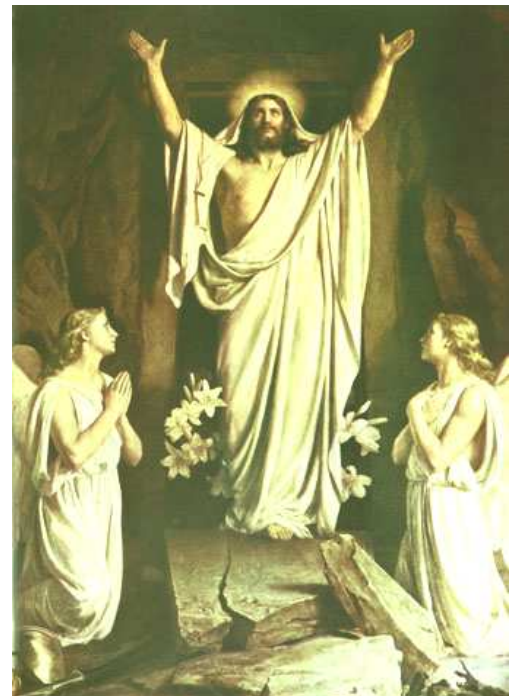
The most remarkable event in all of history happens here—the resurrection of Jesus. Without the resurrection, the Apostle Paul says, our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15). We serve and follow a risen Savior, not a dead one. The fact that Jesus is alive means that we have hope. If Jesus stayed dead, we would have no hope.

Resurrection of Jesus

¹After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. ²Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. ³Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. ⁴The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

⁵The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. ⁶He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. ⁷Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

⁸The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in



leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. ⁹Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

¹¹Meanwhile, the guards had scattered, but a few of them went into the city and told the high priests everything that had happened. ¹²They called a meeting of the religious leaders and came up with a plan: They took a large sum of money and gave it to the soldiers, ¹³bribing them to say, "His disciples came in the night and stole the body while we were sleeping." ¹⁴They assured them, "If the governor hears about your sleeping on duty, we will make sure you don't get blamed." ¹⁵The soldiers took the bribe and did as they were told. That story, cooked up in the Jewish High Council, is still going around.

[Matthew 28:1-15 (MSG)]

Jesus on the road to Emmaus

Meanwhile, Jesus appears to two men who were going to a village called Emmaus:

¹⁴They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. ¹⁵In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. ¹⁶But they were not able to recognize who he was.

¹⁷He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. ¹⁸Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

¹⁹He said, "What has happened?"



They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. ²⁰Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. ²¹And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. ²²But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb ²³and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. ²⁴Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

²⁵Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? ²⁶Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?"

²⁷Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

²⁸They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on ²⁹but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. ³⁰And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. ³¹At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

³²Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

³³They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, ³⁴talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up--Simon saw him!" ³⁵Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

[Luke 24:14-35 (MSG)]

Jesus appears to his disciples

³⁶While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "**Peace be with you.**"

³⁷They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. ³⁸He continued with them, "**Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. ³⁹Look at my hands; look at my feet--it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this.**" ⁴⁰As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

He asked, "**Do you have any food here?**" ⁴²They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. ⁴³He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

⁴⁴Then he said, "**Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled.**"

He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. ⁴⁶He said, "**You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! ⁴⁸You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. ⁴⁹What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high.**"

[Luke 24:36-49 (MSG)]

The resurrection of Jesus—the conquering of death and the defeat of the power over death. This is the linchpin of the Christian faith, the resurrection. Jesus is a living and breathing redeemer, rescuer, and Savior. We worship a God who sacrificed his Son out of an extreme love for his people and the whole world. While the payment for sin is about DEATH, the resurrection is about LIFE—new life in his name. That's what baptism displays: the death and burial of your OLD life (under the water) and being raised to NEW life in the name of Jesus (coming out of the water). The resurrection is all about LIFE in Jesus.



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Living the Resurrection

Not only did Jesus sacrifice his life in order to pay for our sin, but he came back to life to model for us that Christianity is not about DEATH, but about LIFE. It seems that too often we talk about saving people from spiritual death (salvation), but then forget to show people how to have life in Jesus' name (life of discipleship). The resurrection made it possible for God's people to LIVE an entirely redeemed LIFE, one that shows the world what God is like by the way we live (kingdom of God). In God's kingdom there is mercy, forgiveness, generosity, hope, love, compassion, etc. And because we have died to our old way of life and now live a new, resurrected life in Jesus, we don't have to get revenge, be selfish, try to take care of ourselves, or put others last and ourselves first. We get to suffer for this world, just like Jesus suffered. It shows the world what God is willing to do to rescue and redeem everyone.

Living the resurrection is very difficult. It is a narrow path that most are not willing to take. You often get no recognition. You are ridiculed and made fun of. People think you are weird. These are very short-term things. We must keep the resurrection—LIFE—in mind, because it has very long-term benefits, not only for our eternity, but also for the eternity of all those we meet and know.



QUESTIONS

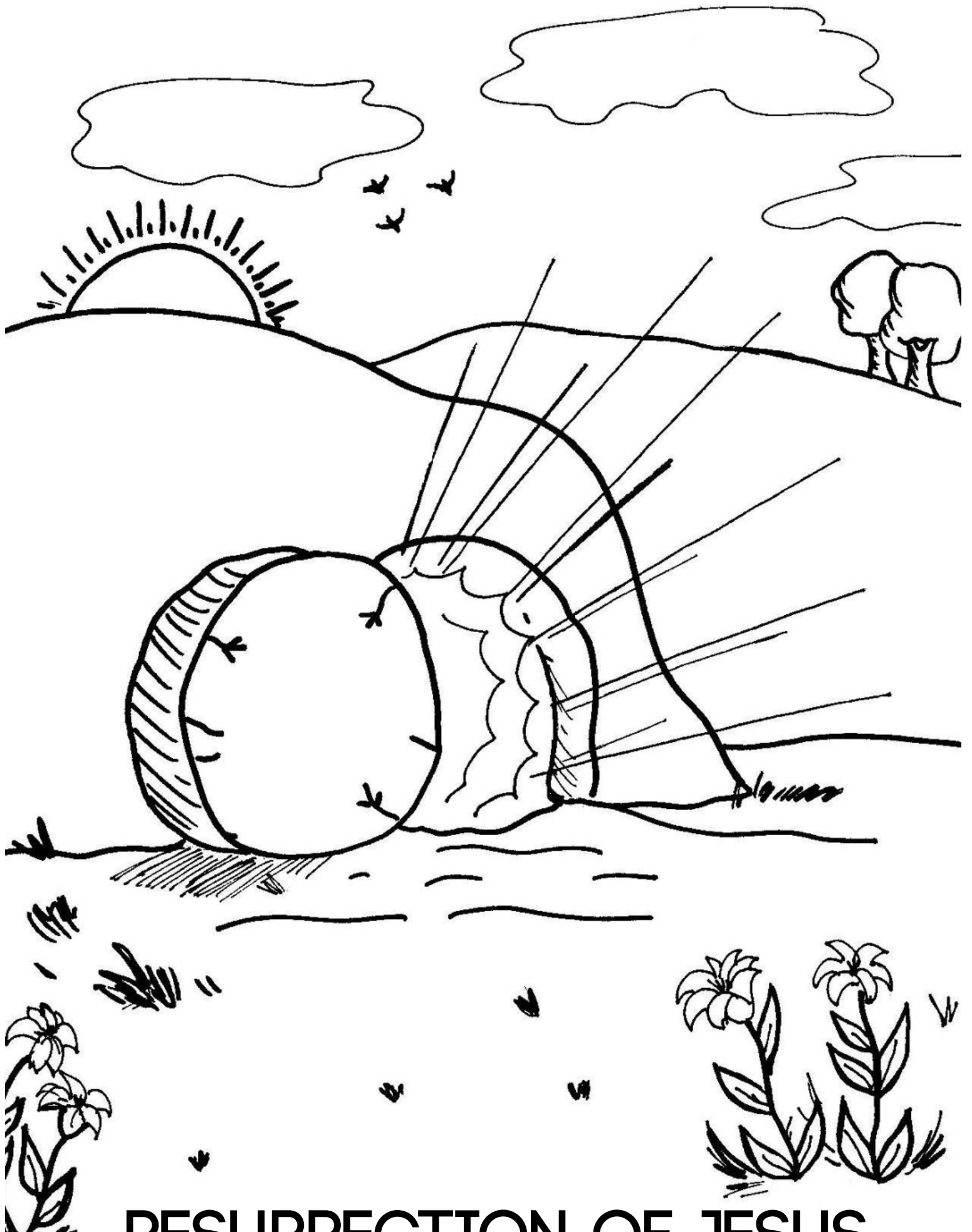
REMEMBERING

- 1. How many days was Jesus in the tomb?** 3 days
- 2. Who was the first person Jesus appeared to after he was resurrected?** Mary
- 3. What did Jesus talk about with the two men on their way to Emmaus?** The Messiah and the WHOLE Bible
- 4. Did the disciples believe it was Jesus right away when he appeared to them?** No. It took them some convincing
- 5. What did Jesus tell his disciples to wait for?** Power from on high
- 6. If you could sum up the resurrection in one word, what would that be?** Life



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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