



TEACHER GUIDE

The disciples were without their Rabbi. Three days after the worst day any of their lives, Sunday morning dawned. Some women who had known Jesus—Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Jesus’ mother, and others—went to visit the tomb. When they arrived, Mary was horrified to see the stone rolled away and Jesus’ body missing from the tomb. Believing that someone had stolen the body, she ran to tell Peter and John.

The two disciples quickly ran to see for themselves and found that Mary had spoken the truth. The body of their teacher—their Messiah—wasn’t there. In the account written by John, John says that when he saw the empty tomb, he believed.

Up until that point, the disciples had not understood that Jesus would rise again. But on that first Easter morning, the glorious truth dawned like the sun—Jesus was alive! He had fulfilled his mission. Through him, all nations would be blessed and all people could be restored to God and live as sons and daughters of the King. God’s Kingdom was here!

The road ahead wouldn’t always be easy for Jesus’ followers, but they knew that their Savior was alive and he promised to send them a comforter—the Holy Spirit. God’s Kingdom, which even a small child could be a part of, had been established through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. And like a mustard seed, it would one day explode into full bloom.

PLAY the first video on the lesson webpage (intro to this week’s lesson by Maggie), if you haven’t done so already.

Then...

SETTING THE STAGE

Ask your children to think of some “Good News,” the best news they have received in their entire lives. Then talk about it. What made it such good news? Who told it to them? Did it have any effect on them? Then say something like...

That is some really good news. Today, we are going to learn about THE “Good News,” the best news that the world has ever received!

VIDEO

PLAY the second video on the lesson webpage (Buck Denver lesson).

Follow video by saying something like this:

For the last four weeks, we've heard about what Jesus came to do. He came to seek and to save the lost, which is each one of us. We are born with sin and the only way to have our sin forgiven and be a part of God's Kingdom forever is to believe in Jesus, who willingly shed his blood for us and came alive again by the power of God. That's the Gospel—which means good news.

Note: Now would be a good opportunity to have a conversation with your children about what it means to make a commitment to follow Jesus. Remind them that Jesus invites us to follow him and be part of God's Kingdom and experience life as a child of the King. You may want to use some of the following verses to walk them through the gospel:

- Romans 3:23 (*sin*)
- Romans 6:23 (*punishment for sin*)
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (*what Jesus did*)
- John 1:12 (*receiving the gift of Salvation*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did God see when his Son was hanging on the cross? (*The stain of sin.*)
- Why did Jesus say, "God, God, why have you left me alone?" (*Because the sin of the world on him separated him from his Father.*)
- What happened when the women went to Jesus' tomb early on Easter morning? (*Jesus was no longer in the tomb!*)
- What did Jesus tell his disciples to go and do? (*To tell the good news to everyone!*)
- What three things having to do with sin would Jesus take away? (*The stain of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin.*)

GOING DEEP

Tell the story of Easter Sunday from John 20, using this script. The story below is set up to be acted out like a play! There are a total of 6 parts: Leader, Mary, Peter, John, Angels, and Jesus. If there are enough people in your household to fill each part, great! If you do not have enough people, then a few members of your household can play multiple parts. Or, if you would like, you can simply read this script as a story.

(On the lesson webpage there is a script that you can download, print, and pass out to the actors)

LEADER: Last week we ended the story on the worst day of Jesus' life. A day that—though sad and terrible—brought new life for the world. We celebrate the day Jesus died on "Good Friday." It was good because, through Jesus, we can have a restored relationship with God. Our sin is forgiven! Our debt has been paid! Jesus had fulfilled his mission.

But when Jesus died, his followers became very sad and confused. They felt as if all hope was gone. That's where we begin today's story. On the morning of the third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' friends, went to the tomb with some other women. They saw that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Mary immediately ran to tell Peter, one of Jesus' disciples.

MARY (*running to Peter and John*): They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have laid him!

LEADER: Mary thought someone had stolen Jesus' body! When Peter heard this, he and John took off running for the tomb.

(Peter looks concerned, pulls on John's arm and the two of them run off stage. John runs back onto stage. He and Peter act out the following scene.)

LEADER: John got to the tomb first and peeked inside. There was no body—just the linen cloths the body had been wrapped up in! When Peter got to the tomb, he ran straight into the tomb and saw the same thing. Let me read what happened next right from the Bible.

"Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes."

Peter and John didn't know exactly what had happened, but the book of Matthew tells us that after Mary Magdalene had left the tomb, angels appeared to the other women who had been with her, telling them that Jesus had risen!

(Have Mary act out this scene.) Later, Mary Magdalene, who still thought Jesus' body had been stolen, returned to the tomb. She stood outside crying. While she was crying, she bent her head down to look inside the tomb. Do you think she hoped that maybe she had seen wrong the first time and his body would be there? When she looked inside, she saw two angels sitting where Jesus' body had been. They asked:

ANGELS: Woman, why are you crying?

MARY: They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have laid him.

LEADER: At that moment, Mary turned to see a man standing outside the tomb. She assumed he was the gardener. Do you know who he really was? (Allow guesses.) The man said:

JESUS: Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?

MARY: Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.

JESUS: Mary.

MARY: Teacher!

LEADER: Mary grabbed ahold of Jesus, but he told her to go tell his disciples what she had seen—that he was alive. And so she ran back to the disciples, saying:

MARY: I have seen the Lord!

LEADER: What an amazing story. Don't you wish you could have been there to see it for yourself? I do. Jesus was alive! Not even death could stop God's plan to save the world.

After Jesus rose again, he appeared to his disciples and over 500 other people. He was on earth for 40 days before he ascended into heaven. Before he left, he told his disciples to go into the whole world, teaching the good news and inviting people to join the Kingdom of God by believing in Jesus.

CLOSER LOOK

Activity 1: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

You'll need: Bibles, Paper, Markers or Colored Pencils

SAY: *Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus showed us that the Kingdom of God is real and provided a way that we can be part of it. Let's take a look at a few verses that tell us more about the Kingdom of God.*

Help your children look up each of the following verses about the Kingdom of God.

- Matthew 6:33
- Mark 10:15
- Mark 4:30-33
- John 3:3

Parents ask:

What does this verse tell us about the Kingdom of God?

Why is that truth important?

What does it mean for your own life?

Then, have your children draw a picture of their favorite verse. Ask your children why that verse is their favorite and what it teaches them about the Kingdom of God.

Activity 2: SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

You'll need: Paper, Markers or Colored Pencils

SAY: *Jesus told his disciples to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15). With busy lives, it can be hard to remember that other people need to know Jesus too. Spend some time drawing a picture of one way you can share the good news with someone you know.*

THE GOOD WORD

Write the following memory verse on a piece of paper, white board, etc.

Say: *On the first Easter morning, some women went to the tomb with spices for Jesus' body. When they got there, the stone was rolled away and an angel as bright as lightning spoke to them! He said, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified." Then he told them the wonderful news in today's Good Word. Listen as I read it from God's Word.*

Matthew 28:6a.

"He is not here, for he has risen, as he said."

Explain unfamiliar words and concepts:

HE HAS RISEN — Jesus' body had been placed in the tomb, but on the third day, God raised him from the dead and brought him back to life.

AS HE SAID — Jesus had told his disciples that he would rise again. They hadn't understood, but now what he had said was coming true.

Have your children repeat the verse with you one or two times. Then make it fun! Repeat the verse as softly or as loudly as you can. Repeat the verse in a funny voice. Cover up parts of the verse to see if your children can remember it without seeing the entire thing. Then see if your children can repeat the whole verse without any aid!

Review this verse throughout the rest of the week with your children!

PRAY

Spend a few minutes in prayer as a whole family. Pray for personal needs, pray about the lesson we just learned, and pray about the current situation we all find ourselves in. While parents may lead this time of prayer, encourage your children to participate as well, even if it is only a brief sentence or two. Here are some prayer points to go off of:

- That God would guide and help medical personnel and our leaders
- That God would heal anyone who is sick
- That God would protect those who are not sick
- That we will be able to be with our friends and family face-to-face soon
- Thank God for the saving work that he has done through Jesus's death and resurrection. Thank him for the reminder that through this work, no bad thing will last forever for those who put their faith and trust in him.