

THE RESURRECTION

Bible Basis: Matthew 28:2–8, 16–20; Luke 24:36–49; John 20:1–6

Key Verse: He is not here! He is risen, just as he said he would. —Matthew 28:6 NIV

Bible Point: God raised Jesus from the dead. God gives me new life, too.

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 27: “The Resurrection”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Stuff You Need: covered coffee mug

As the class gathers, make a fuss about the covered coffee mug, acting as if there’s something in it (keep it empty). Talk about what a great drink it is and how you’re so glad to have it. Eventually, ask if anyone would like to taste your great drink. Choose a volunteer—who will soon discover that the cup is empty. Ask:

- **Were you surprised when you found out the cup was empty? Explain.**
- **Tell me about a time when you had a happy surprise.**

Say, **In the Bible story today, we’ll find out about something that was empty and it was a happy surprise!**

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Stuff You Need: copies of *The Story for Children*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 27*

Tell the story from *The Story for Children*, Chapter 27. You can have children find Luke 23, Matthew 28, or John 20 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

Jesus Rose FROM THE DEAD

Before beginning the story, teach these actions for children to do in response to the cue words in bold print. Every time you read a bolded word indicate they should do the appropriate action.

Jesus—touch the tip of the right middle finger to the left palm, then touch the left middle finger to the right palm

Disciples—put arms around each others’ shoulders

Tomb—scrunch down as if in a cave

Angel—use hands to make halos above their heads

It was a sad, sad day when **Jesus** died. The religious leaders didn't like the things he said and did, and they made up lies about him. Soldiers nailed him to a cross, and he died. His friends, the **disciples**, didn't know what to think. How could this happen to **Jesus**? What was going to happen to the **disciples**? *Read Luke 23:52–53.* Back then, **tombs** were like big caves. A big stone blocked the opening to the cave.

Jesus had promised to come back to life in three days. The religious leaders remembered that he said that, and they wanted to make sure no one could think it had really happened. They put soldiers in front of the **tomb** to make sure no one tried to steal **Jesus'** body and pretend he was alive. No one really thought **Jesus** would come back to life. But after three days, the soldiers were in for a big surprise. *Read Luke 24:1.* But what about the big stone?

There was a powerful earthquake! An **angel** of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled the huge stone away from the **tomb**. The **angel** sat on the stone. His body shone like lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of the **angel** that they shook and became like dead men.

Read Matthew 28:5–7.

So the women hurried away from the **tomb**. They were afraid but full of joy at the same time. They ran to tell the **disciples** about the **angel** and the empty **tomb**. *Read John 20:3–7.* The only thing they found was the strips of cloth the body had been wrapped in. When they got back home, they talked with the other **disciples** about what they had seen at the **tomb**.

The **disciples** were still talking about the **angel** and the **empty tomb** when **Jesus** himself suddenly stood among them. He didn't come in through a door or a window. He was just there! They thought they were seeing a ghost!

Read Luke 24:40–42. A ghost doesn't eat fish!

It took awhile for the **disciples** to understand that **Jesus** was really back. After all, people don't come back from the dead every day. So for the next few weeks, **Jesus** showed up sometimes to remind the **disciples** of his teachings. It was important for them to know why he died and came back to life, because it would be up to them to tell everyone else what they saw and heard.

Finally, **Jesus** told his **disciples** to go to a mountain, and he came to them there. *Read Matthew 28:19–20.*

God raised **Jesus** from the dead. God gives us new life, too. When we believe in **Jesus**, we can live with him forever, and that's great news for everyone!

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 27*. Ask children to look at the picture and tell you about Jesus' resurrection. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- What surprising news did the angel have?
- Why was Jesus rising from the dead a happy surprise?

Say, **God used his mighty power to raise Jesus from the dead. He uses the same mighty power to change our lives, too.**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: RESURRECTION TWIST

Stuff You Need: Resurrection Twist Activity Sheet, safety scissors, tape

Give an activity sheet to each child. Say, **The Bible story today had an unexpected twist. People were expecting Jesus to stay dead, but he didn't. Let's make an unexpected twist to remind us of the story.** Have children cut out the two strips from the activity sheet. Tape the two strips together, end to end. It should be one long strip now. Pick up the long strip at the loose ends. Twist the strip, then tape the remaining ends together. The result is an "infinity" figure. The words on the strips will read continuously. Help children read them together. Ask:

- How does this Resurrection Twist remind you of what God did on the first Easter?
- Why did God send Jesus to die and rise again?

Say, **God raised Jesus from the dead! God has the power to give us new life, too. He wants us to be with him forever.**

OPTION 2: RESURRECTION DRAMA

Stuff You Need: Bible

Optional: Bible-time clothes, props, video recording device

Have the children use the Bible passages from today's story to put on a drama of their own about Jesus' resurrection. Encourage them to use Bible-time clothes and other props. If you have access to a video recording device, record the final drama performance.

OPTION 3: NEW LIFE

Stuff You Need: New Life Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Talk about the idea of an empty tomb. What did that mean to the people who believed that Jesus was the Son of God? Have the children add details to the tomb scene while coloring it. Have the children get in pairs and write a sentence or two on the back

of their activity sheet describing the new life that we have because of Jesus' rising. Then ask the children to share what they wrote.

OPTION 4: RESURRECTION EGGS

Stuff You Need: hardboiled eggs (a couple for each student), tissue paper, bowls for water, paper towel, several damp cloths

1. Tear up tissue paper into sections. Size and shape will not matter.
2. Dip paper towel into the water and wet the egg.
3. Place a piece of tissue paper on the egg.
4. Run a damp cloth over the tissue paper to smooth it down.
5. Repeat steps 2–4 until the entire egg is covered.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Pray thanking God for the new life we can have in Christ. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 27*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.