



# ALIVE!

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U9# 2 1st-3rd Grade • Mar.31, 2024

## Concept

The resurrection is evidence that Christ was sinless and that His death paid for our sin.

## Goal

Students will learn that Christ resurrected from the dead three days after he died and was buried. They will learn about some of the evidence for what happened to Christ.

## Passage

Matthew 27:57-28:17a

Key Verse: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:6

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Mighty Acts of God, Starr Meade</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilet paper, 1 roll/4 students</li> </ul> <p><b>Optional Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Optical Illusion of Jesus, ¼ sheet/student</i></li> <li>"GOSPEL AND RESURRECTION" handout, 1/student</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Children's Encyclopedia of Bible Times</i></li> <li><i>The Children's Illustrated Bible, Selina Hastings</i></li> <li><i>16 oz. clear plastic soft drink bottle, 1/room</i></li> <li>Alka-Seltzer tablets, 2/class</li> <li><i>Thick rubber band, 1/room</i></li> <li>Balloon, 1/class</li> <li>Soy or lima bean seeds, 1/student</li> <li>Fold-over sandwich bags, 1/student</li> <li>Cotton ball, 1/student</li> <li>Yarn, 2½' length/student</li> <li><i>Small dish for water</i></li> <li><i>1 permanent marker</i></li> </ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U9#2 1st-3rd Grade • Mar.31, 2024

Last week's lesson emphasized the suffering of our Lord Jesus. The rest of this unit will focus on the victory made possible as a result of Christ's suffering. This week's lesson focuses on the victory of the resurrection.

"DEFINITION: Christ rose bodily from the dead, resulting in an empty grave. ...while Christ's resurrected body was in some ways different, it was the same material body as the one he had before his death (Lk. 24:39). Therefore, the beliefs that Jesus' resurrected body was completely different than his previous body, or that the resurrection was only spiritual, or that it was only the imagination of the apostles are unacceptable.

"IMPORTANCE:

- It validates the authority and truthfulness of Jesus and his message (Mt. 12:39,40; Jn. 2:19; see also Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:14). Jesus made a unique claim for himself (that he was the Messiah), and he offered to provide unique evidence for those claims (that he would be resurrected). If Jesus was not raised from the dead, he was a false messiah, the apostles were liars, and Christians are fools to be pitied.
- It objectively demonstrates our forgiveness (Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:17; 1 Pet. 1:3). In the Old Testament, the fact that the High Priest emerged alive from the Holy of Holies demonstrated that the sacrifice had been accepted by God. If his sacrifice had been unacceptable, he would have been killed (Lev. 16:1,2). In the same way, Jesus' resurrection demonstrated that his death was fully accepted by the Father as payment for our sins.
- It guarantees the believer's future resurrection (1 Cor. 15:18-23). Paul refers to Jesus' resurrection as the "first fruits" (vs. 20,23). This is a reference to the Old Testament Festival of First Fruits. The earliest fruits were tangible evidence that God would grant them a full harvest. In the same way, Paul says that Jesus' resurrection is the tangible evidence that we will be resurrected at his coming (the Rapture).
- It assures the believer's position in Christ (Rom. 6:4,5; Eph. 1:20,21; 2:6). Paul argues that Christians have been freed from the authority of sin and Satan. This is because Jesus overcame both of them through his death and resurrection, and we have been united with him in his resurrection. Obviously, if Jesus was not resurrected, Christians have no authority over sin or Satan."<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] <http://www.xenos.org>, CP Unit 1, week 10-Christology.

### **Activity Stations**

- **Research – Burial**

- **Instructions:** Read about how people were buried on pages 14, 24 and 47 of *The Children's Encyclopedia of Bible Times* and pages 276-277 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*.

- **Experiment – Unseen Becomes Seen [1]**

- **Instructions:** Fill the bottle half-full with water. Blow the balloon up and release the air a few times to make it softer. Tilt the bottle on its side and place the Alka-Seltzer tablets in the neck of the bottle. Stretch the balloon over the neck of the bottle and secure with the rubber band. Allow the tablets to fall in the water. Watch to see what happens—the balloon will inflate. The cross was not the end of Jesus' ministry on this earth. When Jesus was resurrected it was proof that His death paid for our sins. And the Holy Spirit continues His ministry in the world and in our hearts even though we can't see Him.

- **Science – Sprouting Seeds**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a plastic bag, yarn, seed, and cotton ball. Moisten cotton ball in water. Squeeze out excess water from cotton. Place seed on cotton and put both in the bag. Gather the top of the bag together and wrap the yarn around the bag in a secure fashion. Tie the ends of the yarn together to make into a necklace. Wear necklace around neck under the shirt so that darkness and warmth will promote sprouting or put the bag in a warm, dark place at home. The seed in the bag looks dead. But in the next few days it will sprout and come to life. Jesus was dead, but God brought Him back to life.

[1] Nick Arnold, Chemical Chaos, "Make your own gas," ©1997 by Nick Arnold, Scholastic Inc., p. 83.

### **Introduction Lg. Group**

Last week we learned that Jesus died on the cross. After that, all his disciples were very sad. They didn't think Jesus would die. He was supposed to be the king who would save them from the evil Romans. But they didn't understand what the Bible said. Even Jesus, Himself, told them that He came to die to save people from their sins. And Jesus did die like He and the Bible said He would. Our key verse is, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay" (Matthew 28:6).

The Bible tells us that this is what happened after Jesus died.

**Instructions:** "Jesus Rises from the Dead," pp. 238-240, *Mighty Acts of God*, Starr Meade.

This is what happened the third day after Jesus was buried in the tomb. Everyone thought Jesus had died and all hope was gone. Indeed Jesus had died, but instead of all hope being gone, it was the very thing that had to happen for all people to be forgiven for their sins.

### **Good News**

So why did Jesus have to die? We are sinners and separated from God. Jesus is perfect and came to pay for our sins by His death on the cross. We know that His death was acceptable to God because He was the perfect sacrifice as payment for our sins. Only a perfect, sinless man could have paid for all the sin of all mankind for all time. Without this sacrifice, we would have to take the forever punishment for our own sin. We could never have a relationship with God or live with Him for eternity. But, since Jesus is the perfect sacrifice and God did raise Him, our sins have been paid for. Romans 4:25 says, "He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God." In other words, Jesus died because of our sin and rose so that we could be released from the penalty and power of sin. The Bible says that each of us must personally ask Jesus to forgive our sins so that He will completely forgive us, forever.

Listen as I read **Matthew 27:59-66**.

The resurrection of Jesus is very important! It is not just a story. But how do we know He rose? One thing is clear. The tomb was empty, and no one ever found Jesus' body. But, many, many people who don't believe in Jesus have tried to come up with other ways to explain the fact that the tomb was empty. If He was really raised back to life, it means that Jesus is the only one who can pay for our sins.

Let's look at some ideas people have had to prove the resurrection didn't happen. Listen as I read **Matthew 28:11-15**. This is one of the ideas that the priests in Jesus' day came up with to disprove the resurrection. Let's talk about these theories and the problems with them.

### **Stolen Body**

Some people say the tomb was empty because someone stole the body.

- **Disciples Stole the Body** - What is wrong with this idea? (Discuss. The disciples claimed that Jesus rose from the dead. They were all persecuted and died for their belief in Jesus. They wouldn't have died for something they knew wasn't true.)
- **Priests Stole the Body** - What is wrong with this idea? (Discuss. The Pharisees were the ones trying to prove Jesus wasn't God and that He didn't and couldn't rise from the dead. They would never do this because they needed the body to prove that He didn't rise from the dead.)

## Lesson Continued

### Swoon Idea

Some people say that Jesus didn't really die; He just passed out for a while, then got up and found the disciples.

What is wrong with this idea? (Discuss. It's not physically possible because they had pierced His side. When blood and water came out, it showed that He was dead. They broke the legs of those on the cross so they couldn't push up to breathe and their death would come more quickly. The soldiers didn't break Jesus' legs because He was already dead. And even if He had managed it, the disciples would have known that He wasn't raised from the dead. It would have been obvious because He would have been extremely weak and His wounds would be bleeding or have great scabs over them. Again, they wouldn't have died for that lie.)

### Transition

Let's get up and have some fun. Divide into groups of 4 or 5 and we'll see who can create the most "Jesus-like" mummy. Yes, this is the same game we played in the beginning of the year. Do you remember who Jesus raised from the dead? That's right, Lazarus.

### Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

#### **Game - Mummy Wrap**

**Instructions:** Divide the class into teams of 4 or 5 students. Give each team a roll of toilet paper and have them wrap one member of their team to look like a mummy. Teachers will judge the wraps in the following categories: creativity, neatness, full coverage, etc.

### Transition

The linen wrappings that had been around Jesus' body laid empty! Clearly, the only thing that makes sense is that Jesus really did rise from the dead. There is no other way to explain the empty tomb. Everyone return to your seats and we'll talk about why it is so important to believe that Jesus did really rise from the dead.

### Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

#### **Discussion Groups**

- What is our key verse?
- Jesus died then He rose from the dead. The tomb was empty, and no one ever found Jesus' body. Who knows what this is called? (Resurrection.) Why do you think the resurrection so important?
- Listen to what Jesus said to the Jewish leaders in John 2:19-22 (read the passage). What do you think this means? If Jesus was still in the grave do you think it would be wise to believe anything else He said? Why?
- Romans 4:25 says, "He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God." Who can tell me what this means? Because He was resurrected, we know that His death did pay for all our sins and was fully accepted by the Father.

## Learning Activity#1 Continued

- What does this mean for those of us who have asked Jesus' death to pay for our sins? Grace: We will continue to sin. But we never have to be afraid that our sins will keep us from living forever with God in heaven. Once we are forgiven, we are forgiven forever and God will never take away His love.

**Mission Prayer:** Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray now. Let's ask God to remind us that once He has forgiven us, nothing will take that forgiveness away.

## Optional Activities

- **I've Just Seen Jesus [1]**
  - **Instructions:** Give each student a half piece of paper with the picture on it. Students will stare at the four dots in the center of this picture while you count to 15. Ask the students to close their eyes while you count to 15 again. Ask them what they saw. Some people see a picture of Jesus and some don't. It is like it is in real life. This picture of Jesus can help us remember that some people don't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in the wrong places. Where did the people who had been with Jesus look for Him? (In a grave or on the cross.) We want to be among the people who believe Jesus died and rose as the greatest sacrifice to take away our sins.
- **Play a favorite game.**
- **Give each student a copy of "Gospel and Resurrection" to take home and read with their parents.**

[1] <http://www.sermons4kids.com/seejesus.html>

