



THE CROSS & RESURRECTION

Young Preschool • #NT22 • April 20, 2025

Concept

Jesus is not dead – He’s alive!

Goal

Children will learn that they need forgiveness for their sin, and Jesus’ crucifixion is the solution. His resurrection is the proof that His death paid for our sins.

Passage

Matthew 27:11-28:10, Mark 15:1-16:8

Key Verse: “Do not be afraid... Jesus is not here, for He has risen...”

Matthew 28:5a & 6a

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Beginner's Bible Easter Story Cube</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 2, Ella K. Lindvall</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>12 numbered plastic eggs, containing the following: #1 Palm branch, #2 bread (croutons), #3 three dimes, #4 purple fabric, #5 thorn, #6 nail, #7 cross, #8 dice, #9 sponge, #10 cloves, cinnamon, #11 stone; #12 empty</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Jesus is Risen" color page, 1/child Sandpaper sheets, 2 sheets/class Cotton balls, 3-4/child Crayons/markers Glue sticks

*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

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The children have heard much this year about the benefit of the cross and Christ's death for them. However, the resurrection is the great hope of the believer. It is the guarantee of the completion of Jesus' earthly work and His restoration to His heavenly position.

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 interpretation 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 is unacceptable.

IMPORTANCE: The resurrection 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.[1]

[1] "Http:\www.xenos.org," Christian Principles, Unit 1, Week 10: Christology.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

The day of class: Cut sandpaper into circles.

Activity Stations:

- **Story – The Beginner's Bible Easter Story Cube**

- **Instructions:** Follow the arrows on the cube to unfold the story of Jesus' resurrection.

I bet nobody knows what day this is. Wow, you all know that today is Easter. What is Easter all about anyway? (Allow children to answer—you'll probably be surprised how many know.) Easter is about Jesus, isn't it? We celebrate Easter to remind us about a very, very happy day for everybody in the whole world. It was a very, very happy day because Jesus had died on the cross, but when His friends went to his tomb where he was buried the stone was moved away and He wasn't in there. Jesus was not dead – He was alive!

Do you know that Jesus died on the cross for you and me? God knew when He made us that we would choose to disobey Him. So He had a plan. God's plan was that His Son, Jesus, would come to this earth and always obey God. Then He would die on the cross to take the punishment we should get for our bad choices. When we tell Jesus we want His death to take our punishment, God forgives us.

Let's read what the Bible says about that very happy day.

“A Sad Day and a Happy Day”

Instructions: Read the story from pages 131-157, Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 2

That's what Easter is all about. We are thankful that Jesus is alive because it shows that God's plan really worked. Jesus died on the cross for us so we can be friends with God. We can tell God we know we make bad choices that keep us from being God's friend and we want Jesus to forgive us. He will forgive us and be our friend. We know God's plan DID work because God brought Jesus back to life again!

Let's pray and thank God for His plan. Let's thank Him that Jesus is not dead – He is alive! and that He wants to live with each one of us.

Let's make a craft to help us remember that Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus is not dead – He is alive!

Craft – Jesus Is Alive

Instructions: Give each child a picture of Jesus in front of the empty tomb. Children color picture with crayons or markers. Teachers will add glue stick to the page and let children glue sandpaper to the stones and cotton balls to the clouds.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

As the children work, talk about Jesus' great love – that He would die for us, and God's amazing power – that He could bring Jesus back to life to show us that our bad choices and sins can be forgiven.

If you would like to look in these eggs you can come with me now.

Easter Story in Eggs

Instructions: Use the contents of the eggs to share the Easter story with a group of children. Be careful with the thorn.

- **Palm branch:** Palm Sunday parade – Jesus rode into Jerusalem and all the people waved their palm branches like we did last week saying, “Hosanna! Great is Jesus. He is King.”
- **Bread (croutons):** Last Supper – “Jesus had His last dinner with His friends. He gave them each some bread and said, “This is my body given for you.”
- **Three dimes:** Some mean men paid 30 pieces of silver to get Jesus to them.
- **Purple fabric:** When the mean men made fun of Jesus, they put a purple King’s robe on Jesus.
- **Thorn:** Then the mean men put a crown of sharp thorns on Jesus’ head.
- **Nail:** Then the mean men hammered nails into Jesus’ hands and feet.
- **Cross:** Jesus was nailed to the cross where He died.
- **Die (dice):** Have you ever used dice to play a game? The soldiers rolled the dice like in a game to see who would win Jesus’ clothes.
- **Sponge:** Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” Have any of you ever had vinegar to drink? It is very sour. Soldiers put vinegar on a sponge and gave it to Jesus to help his thirst.
- **Spice (cloves, cinnamon):** After Jesus died, the men took his body off the cross. The women rubbed spices on Jesus’ body. They wrapped His body in cloths and took him to the tomb.
- **Stone:** They rolled a VERY BIG stone up to the opening in the cave. They all went away and were very, very sad because their friend, Jesus, was dead. But the next day when they went back to the cave the stone was rolled away.
- **Empty:** Then when they looked in the cave, Jesus wasn’t there. Jesus is not dead – He’s alive!