



THE CROSS & RESURRECTION

Preschool-K • #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 Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Beginner's Bible Easter Story Cube</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Hanger</i><i>String</i><i>3 clear plastic cups</i><i>Pitcher of water</i><i>Bucket</i><i>Hole punch</i><i>Permanent marker</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>12 numbered plastic eggs</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Adam Raccoon at Forever Falls, Glen Keane</i><i>Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 2, Ella K. Lindvall</i>	<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tomb & Jesus printed on white paper, 1/childStones printed on gray paper, 1/childMarkers, crayons½” paper fasteners, 1/child

*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

Transition

The day of class:

- Cut out the stones for Learning Activity #1.
- Construct a balance with a hanger and the three plastic cups. Punch three holes equidistant around the rim of 2 cups and tie three equal lengths of string to each hole. Join the other ends of the three strings together, and tie them to one end of the hanger. Repeat the process with the second cup, and punch a hole in the bottom of the cup. On the third cup draw a cross in permanent ink.
- Hide the plastic eggs around the room and remember where they are.

Activity Stations:

- **Story – The Beginner's Bible Easter Story Cube**
 - **Instructions:** Follow the arrows on the cube to unfold the story of Jesus' resurrection.

Demonstration

Instructions: Have children sit on the floor. Put a "child" chair with its back facing the children. Hook the hanger with the cups over the back of the chair so the cups hang freely for the children to see. Put the bucket on the floor under the cup with the hole in the bottom. Fill the cups as directed while you talk.

I have an experiment I want to show you to help you think about what God is like and what we are like. I'm going to fill up this cup with water. It fills up with water just like God is filled up with goodness. (Fill up the "intact" cup with water.)

This cup is like you and me. Look at what happens when I fill it up. (Pour water in the cup with the hole, holding it over the bucket.) Oh dear, this cup won't fill up with water, just like we aren't filled up with goodness. Our bad choices are like the holes in the cup.

God knows that we have this problem. He knows we can't fix ourselves. So He had a plan. God's plan was for Jesus to die for us. It's like this cup. (Hold up the cup with the cross on it. Then slip it inside the cup with the hole in it.) When we ask Jesus in our hearts, God forgives us so we can be with Him forever. (Fill up the cup with the cross on it with water. Slide cups along hanger to make them balance.) See how it works? That's because Jesus loved us enough to follow through with God's plan. He fills us up with His goodness.

Who knows what day this is? That's right, it's Easter. Let's see if we can find the hidden eggs to discover what happened around Easter.

The Easter Story in Eggs

Instructions: Use the contents of the eggs to share the Easter story with the children. Elaborate on the contents of each egg to connect each to the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

- **Palm branch:** Palm Sunday parade – Jesus rode into Jerusalem and all the people waved their palm branches 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 gave Judas 30 pieces of silver to give 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 tomb. They all went away and were very, very sad because their friend, Jesus, was dead. But the next day when they went back to His tomb the stone was rolled away.
- **Empty:** Then when they looked in the tomb, Jesus wasn't there. Jesus is not dead – He's alive!

Let's get into small groups to talk and pray about this.

We celebrate Jesus being alive because it shows that God's plan really worked. Jesus fixed the hole that we have in our lives – our bad choices – by dying on the cross for us. When we ask Him, He will come and live with us so we can be with God forever. We can still choose to make bad choices, but because His Holy Spirit lives in us, we can ask Him to help us choose to make good choices. We know God's plan DID work because Jesus is not dead – He's alive!

- What did you learn about Jesus?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is not dead – He's alive?

Transition

Learning **Activity#1** **Sm. Groups**

**Learning
Activity#1
Continued**

Transition

**Learning
Activity#2
Lg. Group**

Transition

**Learning
Activity#3
Lg. Group**

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

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

Craft – Jesus Is Alive

Instructions: Give each child a printed page and a printed stone. Color the picture with crayons or markers. Use marker to color grass and rocks around the tomb. Give each child a paper fastener. Push the fastener through the x on the stone and then through the x below Jesus' feet. Open the fastener on the back of the paper. "Roll" the stone away from the tomb to see Jesus.

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 read a story, come with me.

Read Adam Raccoon at Forever Falls.

- Who does Adam remind you of?
- How is King Aren like Jesus?

Read "A Sad Day and a Happy Day" from Read Aloud Bible Stories VOL. 2, pp. 131-157.