

Luke 24:1-35

1. The children will recall the events that occurred on Easter Sunday.
2. The children will recognize the miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

All Ages – Choose One

A few days before the lesson, collect and dry seeds or pits from fruits that are familiar to the children. When the children are settled in class, show them the seeds/pits, and ask them if they recognize what fruit they come from. Allow the children the opportunity to look at the seeds/pits carefully. Continue the discussion, asking them whether they think the seed is alive or dead and why. Tell the children that although the seed may look like it has no life, if it was planted under the right conditions a plant would grow. Explain to the children that Jesus died for us, just as God and Jesus promised. BUT He also arose from the dead so that everyone could receive salvation and eternal life. Continue with the lesson.

Before class, write the definition of “Resurrection” on the white board or easel (the act of coming back to life after being dead). Provide paper and crayons or markers on the table. Ask the children to draw a picture of Jesus’ Resurrection, however they imagine it would have been.

You will need to blindfold a volunteer from your class and let him see if he can guess the fragrance of several spices or oils. Use common spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves, extracts like vanilla, almond, and maple, and oils like olive and corn. Allow several children to take a turn. You will explain to your class that spices were used to preserve bodies in Jesus' time. The woman that visited Jesus' tomb wanted to wrap His body in linen and spices, since it was their custom. (Continue with the lesson.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Jesus lives!

Teacher Note – Please see the attached “ROLE PLAY” activity as another option to enhance the story telling for this lesson about Easter.

Luke 24 ~ Jesus Rises from the Dead

It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this.

Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.' "

Then the women remembered Jesus' words. They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them were the ones who told the disciples. But they did not believe the women. Their words didn't make any sense to them.

Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent over and saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. Then he went away, wondering what had happened.

On the Road to Emmaus

That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

Jesus asked them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

They stood still, and their faces were sad. One of them was named Cleopas. He said to Jesus, "You must be a visitor to Jerusalem. If you lived there, you would know the things that have happened there in the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the eyes of God and all of the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn't find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn't see Jesus' body there."

Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said! Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things and then receive his glory?" Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets.

The two men approached the village where they were going. Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they tried hard to keep him from leaving. They said, "Stay with us. It is nearly evening. The day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

He joined them at the table. Then he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

They said to each other, "He talked with us on the road. He opened the Scriptures to us. Weren't our hearts burning inside us during that time?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them. They were all gathered together. They were saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen! He has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two of them told what had happened to them on the way. They told how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who were the first people to visit Jesus' tomb? *(The women - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.)*
2. When did they go to visit the tomb? *(On Sunday morning, after the Sabbath.)*
3. How would you react if you went to visit the grave of someone you love, only to find it empty? How did the women react? *(They were afraid.)*
4. What did the angel say to the women? *(See Matthew 28:5-6.)*
5. Who did the women go and tell about Jesus' resurrection? *(The disciples.)*
6. Why do you think God did not allow the two disciples to recognize Jesus on the road to Emmaus? *(Discuss. Answers will vary.)*
7. How do you think you would have felt when you realized Jesus was alive? *(Discuss. Surprised? Joyful? Intrigued? With disbelief?)*
8. Did anyone else ever rise from the dead? *(Yes – Lazarus.)* What do you think the difference is between someone like Lazarus, and Jesus? *(Lazarus was rose from the dead back into life in an earthly and human body. Jesus was in a "celestial" or heavenly body. And, different from anyone else who dies, because Jesus never sinned, His death makes forgiveness of sins possible for everyone.)*

Application to Real Life

Before and After

Enjoy a healthy snack as you discuss with the children things that happen "before" and "after." For example, what things happen before and after a meal at home (there is food preparation, setting the table, etc. and clean-up, washing dishes, etc.), or what things happen before, and you play a game, etc.

Then talk about the differences between Jesus' death and resurrection, such as how people must have felt before and after (from sad to joyful) and how their (the disciples of Jesus) actions changed when He came back to life (from ashamed to courageous).

Talk with the children about what kind of person we might be if we never heard of or learned about Jesus and what He did. (Make a list of these characteristics on a white board or easel.) Remind the children that a person's actions and behaviors SHOULD change after they know and learn about Jesus and what He did for us. What kind of characteristics should we have now? (Make another list on your white board or easel.) We know that Jesus lives! (Message Statement.) Encourage the children to ask God to help them each day to reflect a person who knows and loves Jesus.

Memory Work Fun

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Luke located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for sending baby Jesus and for giving us a special time to celebrate His birth each year.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

Chalk Marker Doodle Cross Pictures

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Click on “NT Lessons” → Scroll down to “Luke” and look for the lesson: “Empty Egg, Empty Tomb” → Scroll down to “3. Chalk Marker Doodle Cross Pictures”

You will need liquid chalk markers, construction paper or paper from brown grocery bags or colored cardstock, and scissors for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and templates.

Easter Bible Games

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Click on “NT Lessons” → Scroll down to “Luke” and look for the lesson: “Empty Egg, Empty Tomb” → Scroll down to Games and click on “Easter Egg Bible Games Page”

There are 15 different Bible Review games for you to choose from and use in class. Please see the above website for materials needed and detailed instructions.

Truth Revealed

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → object talks → “Truth Revealed”

This object talk will compare how Jesus told the disciples that he would be killed and would rise again on the third day. How the disciples did not understand what He was saying until that Sunday morning when He arose from the grave. The white message on white paper represents how the disciples could not understand. The red food coloring represents the Lord's shed blood, and how by seeing His death and resurrection, the message became clear. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion.

In the tomb, Out of the tomb

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → Games → “In the tomb, Out of the tomb”

Draw a long line using yarn or masking tape (or imaginary). Have the children line up in a straight line facing the leader on the right side of the line. The right side of the line is “In the Tomb” and the left side of the line is “Out of the Tomb.” Please see the above website for more detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion.



All Ages - continued**No Way Across**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → preschool → object talks → “No way Across”

You will need two bath towels and an empty chair for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion.

God sent His only son, Jesus, to help us. Jesus took the punishment for our sins although He had never ever done anything wrong! When we ask Jesus to forgive us for the bad things we have done, he forgives us, and restores our relationship to God. Jesus is the only one that can carry us across the great gap that sin created when people first disobeyed God.

Grades K-2**Recognizing Jesus Game**

You will have the children sit in a circle. Then choose one child to be in the center of the circle. Cover his/her eyes with a piece of fabric. Explain to the children that you are going to walk around the outside of the circle and gently tap one of the children. The child who you tapped should say the name of the child in the center of the circle. The child who is blindfolded should then guess who said their name. After the child correctly guesses who said their name, the children should switch places and repeat the game. After each of the children has had an opportunity to be in the middle of the circle, review the section of the lesson where Mary did not recognize Jesus until He said her name.

Grades 3-5**Who Said it?**

The children will work together in small groups. You will need a “Who said it!” card set (see attached) and scissors for this activity. Print and cut out one statement and name card set for each group. Use a paper clip to keep all the name cards together and another paper clip to keep all the statement cards together. Place one set of cards in a separate bag for each group. You will also need to have the children find and bookmark Matthew 27:64–65 and Matthew 28:1–10 in their Bibles.

Divide the children into groups. Give each group a card set and a Bible. Tell the children to match the cards to identify the person(s) who either said the statement or did the action. Then, ask them to put the matching pairs of statements in the correct order. When a group thinks they have all the correct matches, let them share their work and check for accuracy.

Grades K-2

What does Easter mean to you? Draw a picture of what you remember from the lesson.

Grades 3-5

Which holiday do you think is more important to Christians: Christmas or Easter? Why? Write about it.

What kind of characteristics should someone who believes in and loves Jesus show each day? Make a list. Which of these characteristics do you have the most trouble with yourself? Write about it.

Other Resources

<http://children.cccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Teacher Guide and/or Support Curriculum → Page 8 →
"Jesus is Risen"

www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Click on "Bible Crafts" and scroll down to "E" → Look for Easter Crafts.

Also see "Other Resources" page (attached) for a picture to support the Easter Lesson.

Role Play

Preparation: On one side of the room, set up the chair and table. The table will be the tomb and the chair will be the stone in front of it.

Narrator: *(Two guards are standing at the entrance of Jesus' tomb.)* Jesus died on the cross. His body was placed in a tomb and sealed with a stone. Pilate also commanded that guards keep the tomb secure so no one could steal Jesus' body from it. *(Mary Magdalene and Mary enter.)*

Mary Magdalene: Mary, let us go to Jesus' tomb. *(Mary Magdalene and Mary go to Jesus' tomb.)*

Narrator: The earth shook and there was a great earthquake! An angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb. *(The angel enters and rolls the stone away. The two guards fall to the ground with fear.)*

Angel: *(Speaking to Mary and Mary Magdalene.)* Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just as He said He would. Go tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead. He will meet them in Galilee. *(Mary and Mary Magdalene joyfully leave Jesus' tomb.)*

Narrator: The women went to tell the disciples the message they had been given. Just as they were leaving, Jesus appeared to them. *(Jesus enters. Mary and Mary Magdalene hold Jesus by His feet and worship Him.)*

Jesus: Do not be afraid! Tell My disciples to go to Galilee. They will see Me there. *(Mary, Mary Magdalene and Jesus exit.)*

Who said it?

Mary Magdalene and Mary	_____ went to Jesus' tomb.
Angel	An _____ came down and rolled away the stone away in front of Jesus' tomb.
Guards	The _____ stationed in front of Jesus' tomb fell to the ground in fear.
Angel	Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus who was crucified but He is not here.
Angel	He has risen just as He said. Look in the tomb. Go and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead. He will meet them in Galilee.
Mary Magdalene and Mary	_____ saw Jesus. They held Him by His feet and worshipped Him.
Jesus	Do not be afraid. Tell My disciples to go to Galilee and they will see Me there.

Musical Option

Easter Round 2-Part

by Lois Veenhoven Guderian

mf

Soprano Hal__ le__ lu - jah, Christ has ris - en!

mf

Soprano Hal__ le__ lu - jah,

3

S. He__ has__ ris - en from the dead.

S. Christ has ris - en! He__ has__ ris - en

5

S. Hal__ le__ lu - jah, Christ has ris - en! He__ has__ ris'n on

S. from the dead. Hal__ le__ lu - jah, Christ has ris - en!

8

S. Eas - ter morn.

S. He__ has__ ris'n on Eas - ter morn.

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Other Resources



Also known as the Church of the Resurrection, this building is believed to contain the tomb where Christ's body was laid before He arose on Easter.

Take Home Page: E24. Easter

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **Jesus lives!** Children explored events that occurred on Easter Sunday. They also talked about the miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead that day, and how knowing this should change our actions and behaviors each day.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"...on the third day he will rise from the dead." --Luke 24:7 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What miracle happened on Easter Sunday?
2. How do you think you would have reacted if you came to Jesus' tomb saw it was empty?
3. How do you feel today knowing that Jesus lives?

Live Your Faith...

Every family has different Easter traditions. Before you go about your celebrations, take a few moments to talk and think about the miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Say a prayer to thank God for the blessing of His Son and forgiveness for your sins.
