

Lesson 6

Jesus Rises from the Dead

Bible Lesson: Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-11

Memory Verse: "He has risen." *Mark 16:6*

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that Jesus did not stay in the grave, but came back to life just as He promised
- ◆ that we do not have to be afraid of death because Jesus is the Life and is stronger than death
- ◆ that because Jesus lives, all who believe in Him will go to live with Him forever in heaven

Prepare Materials

- ◆ white construction paper for lilies
- ◆ green construction paper for leaves
- ◆ brown construction paper for stems
- ◆ yellow tissue paper

- ◆ lily (pattern in Teacher Manual)
- ◆ basket
- ◆ plastic Easter eggs that open (for object to be placed inside)
- ◆ objects for eggs:
 - * cross (jewelry or crossed sticks)
 - * nails
 - * flat rock (tomb door)
 - * small bottle of perfume
 - * small piece of bread
 - * thorns or small piece of cactus
 - * unrelated objects
- ◆ My Favorite Bible Stories p.93
- ◆ "Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus" flannelgraph on Resurrection Appearances

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Bible Study Text: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-11

I. Introduction

I am sure many of us have experienced events in our lives when we exclaimed, "That is unbelievable!" We have seen something or heard something that we could not believe. In fact, there have been times when all we could do was confess, "That was a miracle!" And that is exactly what occurred in our story about Jesus today: A MIRACLE! The power of God accomplished what His prophets had predicted and what Jesus Himself had promised, that on the third day He would rise again. The unbelievable had actually taken place!

II. Consider the Setting

A. Jesus' death had been a reality (Matthew 27:50).

1. Mighty things happened: there were earthquakes, the veil of the temple was torn in two, rocks split, graves opened, and many saints were raised from the dead and appeared to many after Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:50-53).

2. Many witnessed all this including Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 27:55-56).
- B. Jesus' burial was a reality.
1. He was buried in a solid stone tomb with a huge stone rolled over the entrance, sealed with the seal of the king and guarded by soldiers.
 2. Again there were women witnessing this (Matthew 27:60-66).
- C. Now it was the third day, the "*first day of the week*" (Matthew 28:1), and we find three women at the tomb (Mark 16:1).
1. That it was the third day was significant, because Jesus had said He would rise on the third day (Matthew 12:40).
 2. Jesus arose on the first day of the week. This is why the Christian Church has kept the first day of the week, Sunday, as our day of worship.
- D. Matthew reports that there was a severe earthquake, an angel had rolled away the stone, the guards were as dead men, and the tomb was empty (Matthew 28:2-6).
- III. In the resurrection account, we see love and unbelief mingled.
- A. We see the love of the women for their Lord. They were bringing spices to anoint Jesus' body (Mark 16:1).
- B. See also the unbelief characteristic of human nature.
1. Jesus had said, "*On the third day He will be raised up*" (Matthew 20:19). See also John 2:19.
 2. The women wondered, "*Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?*" (Mark 16:3). They apparently did not expect a resurrected Lord.
 3. Mary wept, not only over Jesus' death, but because she thought someone had robbed the tomb and taken His body away. She said, "*I do not know where they have laid Him*" (John 20:13).
- C. Mary Magdalene and the others did not need to go to Jesus' tomb with spices, with doubts, with questioning and fear.
1. God was true to His Word. He states this fact with a promise in I Corinthians 6:14, "*Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.*"
 2. Their worry was needless. An angel had already rolled away the stone (Matthew 28:2; Mark 16:4; John 20:1).
 3. The tomb had indeed been robbed. The Almighty God had robbed it, not man. God robbed the tomb of death, and robbed it of its victory (I Corinthians 15:54-55).
- IV. Because of our old nature, we may also worry about obstacles that appear immovable, even though we love Jesus. We have doubts, fears, and questions.
- A. We have struggles with doubts. Do you ever doubt the fact that Jesus is risen and lives forever? Do you ever doubt God's Word?

1. When Jesus appeared to His disciples they were terrified and Jesus asked, "*Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?*" (Luke 24:38).
 2. James wrote, "*For the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind*" (James 1:6).
- B. We also have problems with fear. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is with us. He is not dead like the false gods that man creates.
1. Jesus, walking on the water, consoled His disciples who cried out in fear. Jesus said, "*Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid*" (Matthew 14:27).
 2. "*God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline*" (II Timothy 1:7).
- C. Along with doubts and fears come questions. "Are you really there, Lord? Are you really alive? Are you really with me and aware of my problems?"
1. Consider what happened for Mary (John 20:15-16).
 - a. Jesus came to Mary and said, "*Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?*" (v.15).
 - b. Still unbelieving, Mary thought Jesus was the gardener who had carried the body of Jesus away.
 - c. At that point Jesus called her by name, and then Mary recognized Him.
 2. Jesus also calls us by name (John 10:3-4).
 - a. His sheep know His voice.
 - b. The living Good Shepherd goes before His sheep.
- V. The Bible, God's Holy Word, tells us that Jesus lives.
- A. God's Word is given so that we would believe. "*But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name*" (John 20:31).
1. John wrote, "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17).
 2. Jesus is "*the living Word*" (I John 1:1).
 3. Jesus is the eternal Word (John 1:1-2)
 4. Jesus is "*the truth*" (John 14:6).
- B. The Bible tells us that Jesus would be raised.
1. Job believed that Jesus would live again (Job 19:25).
 2. Paul wrote much on the resurrection of Christ from the dead (I Corinthians 15; Romans 6:4-10).

3. Jesus Himself declares, *"I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore"* (Revelation 1:18).

VI. In light of all this, what joy ought to fill our hearts as His redeemed children.

- A. Because Jesus lives, we shall also live with Him (I Corinthians 15:20-24).
- B. Peter writes that we have a *"living hope"* (I Peter 1:3). This is a hope built upon the fact of a risen Lord and Savior.
- C. Baptized children and adults can look back with joy to their baptism as it relates to the resurrection of Christ (I Peter 3:18,21; Romans 6:4-11; Colossians 2:12-14).
- D. Let us rejoice that *"God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him"* (I Thessalonians 5:9-10; see also I Thessalonians 4:13-14). One day, whether we live or die, we will *"meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord"* (I Thessalonians 4:17).

VII. Conclusion

"Therefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:18). The most important thing in our life is to make sure that we have Jesus in our hearts by faith. He is the living hope. Let us rejoice in the fact that we have a living Savior, one who lives forevermore. May we be able to say with Job of old, *"I know that my Redeemer lives"* (Job 19:25). Let us believe the words of Jesus and of the angel and of the other witnesses recorded in the Word of God: "He lives!"

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

As the children enter the classroom, give them a small Easter egg treat such as a few jellybeans.

SAY: An egg is a symbol of new life because many animals such as birds and chickens hatch from eggs. Today our story will tell us about a wonderful new life.

Use a Learning Center

ART CENTER – EASTER LILY

TRACE the lily (pattern in Teacher Manual) onto white construction paper. **CUT OUT** and **FOLD** each petal up at the dotted line. Fold each tab in on dotted line. Place a bit of glue on outside of tab so petals attach to one another. **CURL** ends of petal around a pencil to make them look like lily petals.

SHRED yellow tissue paper by cutting into small strips. Place a small wad of the tissue paper inside the lily and **GLUE**. Set lily aside until it is time to memorize the Bible verse.

DISCUSSION CENTER – EASTER SYMBOLS

Have an Easter basket ready with plastic eggs, at least one egg for each child to open. Inside each egg, insert a small object. Some of the objects should relate to Lessons 3-6, but some should not (suggested objects: a cross, nails, flat rock (tomb door), perfume (burial), thorns (crown), bread (Lord's Supper). Unrelated objects should have great contrast, such as a bell, a toy, or a ring.

As child selects and opens the egg, he should tell if that object reminds him of something we've learned about Jesus in the past three weeks.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

Sing "Joy in My Heart" p.43 Salvation Songs Favorites. **SAY:** We can have joy in our heart because Jesus loves us. Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead. Because He lives, we can have the gift of eternal life and go to heaven someday to live with Him forever.

Sing "Jesus, High in Glory" printed in student books and Teacher Manual. Review the first four verses, and add the last verse. Emphasize that because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that He is more powerful than death. When we believe in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life. We know that we will go to heaven someday to live with Jesus forever.

Pray the Message

Thank Jesus for being willing to die on the cross for our sins. Thank God that Jesus rose again from the dead so that we can have eternal life and live with Him forever in heaven.

Introduce the Message

ASK: Why were Jesus' friends and followers so sad in our last lesson?

SAY: Listen to our story today to find how their sadness turns to great joy. See if you agree with me that this is the happiest news the world has ever heard!

Read/Tell the Message

JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

It was a wonderful day, a day of great joy and happiness! It was Resurrection Day! Jesus' promise had come true!

Jesus was in the grave for three days. Very early in the morning on the third day, the women who loved Jesus came back to the

tomb. They came to put spices and perfume on Jesus' body. They wondered, "Who will roll away the stone for us?" But when they came to the tomb, they were surprised! The huge stone had been rolled away!

When the women looked into the tomb, they saw an angel wearing a white robe. The women wondered, "Where is Jesus?" The angel said, "Do not be surprised. You are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See, here is the place where they laid Him. Go and tell His disciples they will see Him again just as He said."

The women ran from the tomb. They were afraid and happy at the same time. Jesus was alive! Jesus was not dead anymore! They told the disciples the good news, "He has risen." Now the women remembered what Jesus told them before, "I will rise again after three days." We call this the Resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus is good news for us today too. Jesus is alive forever. He is stronger than death. We do not have to be afraid of death because Jesus is the Life. Jesus said, "Because I live, you shall live also."

Reinforce the Message

- ◆ How long was Jesus in the tomb? (three days)
- ◆ Who were the first to discover that Jesus was not in the tomb? (some women who loved Jesus)
- ◆ Why had they come? (to put spices and perfume on Jesus' body)
- ◆ Who was in the tomb? (an angel wearing a white robe)
- ◆ What did the angel say? (Jesus is not here. He has risen!)
- ◆ To whom did the women tell the good news? (the disciples)
- ◆ Was the good news only for followers of Jesus in those days? (no, the good news is for us today too)
- ◆ What does this good news mean to us today? (Jesus is stronger than death. We do not have to be afraid of death, because Jesus is the Life. Because Jesus lives, we can live forever with Him in heaven.)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize a Bible Verse

Sing "*The Best Book of All Is the Bible.*"

The Bible memory verse should be printed on 1" wide brown stems, one per child. Also have four green leaves per child pre-cut. As you distribute stems, have children repeat several times:

"He has risen." Mark 16:6

Help each child glue the lily (made earlier in Art Center) to the stem. When he can say the verse alone, give him a leaf to glue onto the stem. Give another leaf for the reference to glue onto the stem. Repeat until each child has four or more leaves.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 – The Empty Tomb

Tell students to **LOOK** at the maze.

SAY: On the third day the women went to the tomb to put spices and perfume on Jesus' body. Help the women at the top of the page get to the tomb where Jesus was laid.

ASK: What did the women find when they reached the tomb? (The stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. An angel told the women that Jesus was not there because He had risen from the dead.)

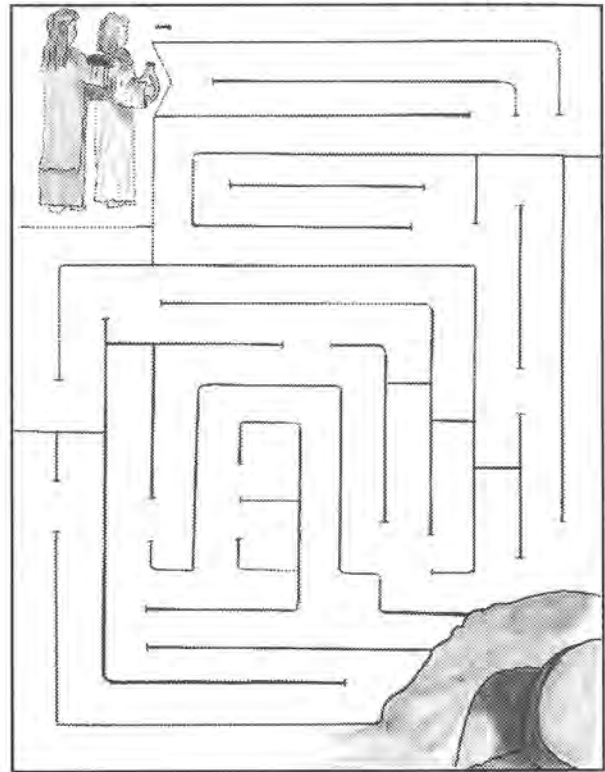
ACTIVITY 2 – Jesus Rises from the Dead

Tell the students to **LOOK** carefully at the page. **SAY:** The women went to the tomb and found that Jesus was not there, but an angel told them what happened.

FIND the letters in the angel's robe. **FOLLOW** the broken lines from the letters to the blanks at the top of the page. Then **WRITE** the correct letter in the blank.

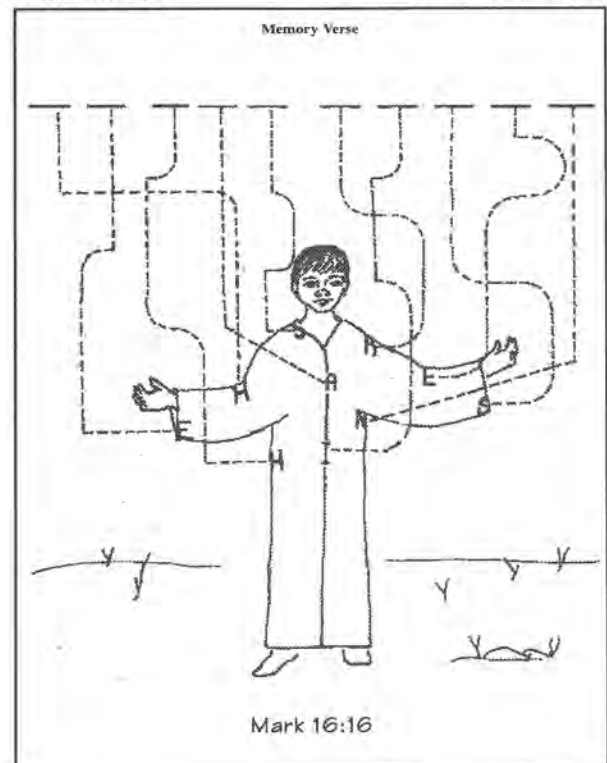
Lesson 6 – Activity 1

Jesus Rises from the Dead



Lesson 6 – Activity 2

Jesus Rises from the Dead



When all the blanks have a letter, help the students **READ** the Bible verse. If there is still time, **COLOR** the page or tell the students to finish coloring the page at home.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

Sing "*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*" p.96 Little Ones Sing Praise or the first line of the Easter hymn "*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*" p.96 Little Ones Sing Praise or p.104 Ambassador Hymnal.

Sing all the verses of the theme hymn, "*Tell Me the Story of Jesus.*" Talk about the life of Jesus by discussing some of the Bible stories you have studied this year. Ask the children to tell about different things they have learned about Jesus. **SAY:** All of the stories about Jesus show us how much He loves us!

Pray Together

SAY: God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. Today we learned that God is so powerful, even death could not keep Jesus in the tomb. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we do not need to fear death. If we love Jesus, He will take us to heaven someday to live with Him forever.

Ask each child to pray after you:

Thank You, Jesus, for coming to die on the cross so that my sins could be forgiven.

Thank You, Jesus, that You are stronger than death and have promised eternal life to all who believe in You as their Savior.

Sing "*Father, We Thank You for Your Word.*"

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Gather and Prepare Materials

- ◆ purple construction paper, 1 sheet per child
- ◆ black, red, white, green, and yellow construction paper, ½ sheet of each color per child
- ◆ black construction paper, ½ sheet per child
- ◆ tag board
- ◆ paper punch
- ◆ yarn in 9" lengths, 2 per child
- ◆ red ribbon 6-7" long (optional) for each student
- ◆ "Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus" flannelgraph on Resurrection Appearances

Prepare Lesson 7

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text (Luke 24:13-35) and student lesson.

Memorize the Bible verse:

"Thy word is truth." John 17:17

Read the Teacher Manual.

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes.

