



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 16

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Created for use as discipleship material for older children to adults

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 16: Jesus the Son: He Arose from the Dead and Ascended to Heaven

Scriptures:

Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-16; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-28; John 14:1-6; Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 7:25

Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner to understand the resurrection
To show the learner the post resurrection life of Christ
To assist the learner to understand the ascension

Scripture Memory:

Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. (Romans 6:9)

The Lesson:

There are many things that are powerful. The wind can blow buildings over. Water can flood towns. Fire can burn thousands of acres of forest. But, when you think about it, death is even more powerful than those things. It ends life. Humans constantly seek ways to make life longer. We want to live as long as we can.

There is a story in the Bible about a man named Lazarus. He died. It was a really bad thing for his sisters. Their hearts were broken. Jesus came and brought him back to life. It was a miracle! That kind of thing happened on a few other occasions while Jesus was on earth. God has power to do things that humans can't do. He can bring people back to life. We sometimes call that resurrection.

The most important resurrection in history was after Jesus died on the cross. Some good men came and took His body. They buried Him in a small cave cut into a hillside near Jerusalem. Then they rolled a big rock over the entrance of that tomb. The body of Jesus was very secure. Even a person who was alive, healthy, and strong wouldn't have been able to get out of that tomb. In addition, the Roman governor had placed two armed guards at the rock that covered the entrance of the tomb. He wanted to be sure that Jesus didn't escape. But more than that, he wanted to be sure that no one stole Jesus' body.

Then the most amazing thing happened; Jesus came back to life. He had died three days before on the cross. He had been declared dead by Roman soldiers. He was removed from the cross by people who would have been sure that He was dead before they buried Him. He had been truly dead. Then suddenly, He was really alive.

We know this because the Bible says that on the third day after He was crucified, some of His friends came and found the tomb empty. It was by God's power that Jesus came back from the dead. He did what no one else has ever done. He came back by His own power.

We know that He came back because there were many people who saw Him after His resurrection. There were two believers who walked down a road with Him and ate with Him. There were several disciples to whom He appeared and showed the scars left by the nails that held Him to the cross. There were large groups of people to whom He spoke. Actually, hundreds saw Jesus after He came back from the dead.

By conquering death, the greatest destroyer, Jesus proved that He was God. He has power over death. He now lives, and that means that we serve a living Lord and One that the most powerful thing, death, could not conquer.

The resurrection of Jesus assures us of our own resurrection. The Bible calls His return to life the “first fruits” of the resurrection. That means that there will be many resurrections to follow His. Someday, everyone who has ever died will be made alive again!

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended, or went up, into Heaven. He was standing with the disciples on a mountain top near Bethany. He lifted His hands and rose up into the clouds and ultimately to Heaven. Again, Jesus did something that humans can’t do. He defied gravity, rose up through the stratosphere without the help of a rocket, and went to be with His Heavenly Father.

The Bible tells us that God the Father welcomed Him back home and invited Him to sit at God’s right hand. Jesus remains there to be our representative, or advocate, before God. He is also preparing a place in Heaven for all those who believe in Him!

Life Application:

There are many things that are powerful, like wind, water, and fire. But death is even more powerful than all those things. It ends life. In 1 Corinthians 15 we read that, “Death came because of what man did. . . Because of Adam, all people die.” Because of Adam, sin entered the world. All of us have sinned and sin separates us from God. Sin brings death.

But Jesus tells us not to be worried or troubled, but to trust in Him. Right before Jesus died, He explained that in His Father’s house, Heaven, there are many places to live, many homes. He wouldn’t have said it if it weren’t true. Jesus also explained that He would go and get a place ready. Jesus also promised something. He’s coming back one day! And when He does, He will take us to be with Him. He wants us to be together. How do we get there, though? Jesus answered that question by saying, “I am the way . . . No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:1-6) Jesus is the only way to God. Because Jesus sacrificed Himself for you, you can one day be with Him again.

How will we get there if we have already died? 1 Corinthians 15 also says that, “Rising from the dead also comes because of what a man did. So because of Christ, all will be made alive!” “People now come to God through [Jesus]. And He is able to save them completely for all time.” (Hebrews 7:25) Jesus’ great gift of salvation has made all of this possible. But as we talked about last week, the choice is yours. Will you accept this great gift of salvation, knowing that you are a sinner separated from God?

Maybe you have already trusted Jesus as the way to God. Do you remember what Jesus asked believers to do before He returned to heaven? He said to go and tell others. Make disciples of all nations. Teach them to obey what I have said. Baptize them. You may be thinking, “I can’t do all of that!” But Jesus promised to be with you. With God, nothing is impossible.



Planning for Lesson 17
Jesus the Son: He ministers
to us today



- ♦ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the verse enough times for memorization. Encourage your students to write it on 3x5 cards and take them home. Repeat the verse five times a day, each day of the week. While in class, help your students to do a topical study from the Bible on death. Bible searches on the internet make this very easy as do Topical Bibles.
- ♦ Look at the story of Nicodemus (John 3) in several different translations. Discuss what your students discover.
- ♦ Sing "Up From the Grave He Arose," "He Lives," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "Arise, My Love," "To God Be the Glory," "Amazing Love," "No Excuse," "I'll Fly Away," "Come and Go With Me," "That Where I Am, There You May Also Be," "When We All Get to Heaven," "Soon and Very Soon," "Get All Excited," or "The Mission."
- ♦ **Dig Deeper:** We looked at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 15 in our lesson. Now, let's look a little further. Read through verse 23 again and then look at verses 35-58. Write down what you learn about different bodies, be specific. To illustrate the passage, you might want to bring various seeds (kernel of corn, bean, apple seed, orange seed, etc.) and the actual plant that grows from it or a picture of that plant. Prompt discussion with questions like, "Do oranges grow from this kernel of corn?" "Will wheat grow from this apple seed?" "Will I become a bird or a dog from this human body?"
- ♦ **Dig Deeper Still:** C.S. Lewis has said, "The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reports in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the "gospel" or good news which the Christian brought: what we call the 'gospels,' the narratives of Our Lord's life and death, were composed later for the benefit of those who had already accepted the *gospel*. They were in no sense the basis of Christianity: they were written for those already converted. The miracles of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. Nothing could be more unhistorical than to pick out selected sayings of Christ from the gospels and to regard those as the datum and the rest of the New Testament as a construction upon it. The first fact in the history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection." (*Miracles*. pgs. 143,144). Read through some of those sermons (in Acts) that were preached before the New Testament was penned.

**Knowing that
CHRIST,
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Romans 6:9

RESURRECTION

God has power to do things that humans can't do. He can bring people back to life. We sometimes call that **resurrection**. The most important resurrection in history was after Jesus died on the cross. They buried Him in a small cave cut into a hillside near Jerusalem. Then the most amazing thing happened; Jesus came back to life. It was by God's power that Jesus came back from the dead. He did what no one else has ever done. He came back by His own power! How many different words can you find from the word **resurrection**?

[illegible]

Word Search



N	R	E	S	U	R	C	T	N	G	O	L
G	O	N	T	E	N	B	H	E	H	J	L
O	B	I	U	R	E	E	E	W	E	P	E
B	E	H	T	L	V	Y	A	W	E	H	T
A	Y	J	I	C	A	E	T	I	O	N	D
H	E	E	V	N	E	I	L	E	B	V	N
N	V	S	O	B	H	R	E	S	R	R	A
E	J	U	T	H	I	U	R	E	S	U	O
R	E	S	R	E	W	P	O	U	U	Y	G
E	V	E	Y	B	D	N	E	C	S	A	W
L	L	E	G	A	S	C	D	E	N	E	V
A	E	V	H	A	Y	T	P	O	W	E	R

heaven

believe

ascend

go and tell

resurrection

The Way

power

obey

Jesus

Word Search



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