

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 45

**REMEMBERING THE CROSS
AND THE EMPTY TOMB**

MARK 15:21–16:7

Life of Christ

Remembering The Cross and the Empty Tomb

Mark 15:21—16:7

Younger Verse

We can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Older Verse

Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus took our sin on Him when He died on the cross
Understand that Jesus' death and resurrection was God's plan
Recognize our responsibility to share the Good News with others

Opener

Do you remember why we celebrate Easter? It is the time we celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and raising from the dead. As believers in Christ, we can celebrate Easter every day!

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Why did Jesus come to earth? He left heaven and became a man so that He could die for all people. Through His death, He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be right with God. Then three days later, He rose back to life again. He showed that He has power over even death!

Jesus had told His disciples several times that He was going to die. He tried to prepare them for His death. He also said that three days later He would raise from the dead. Jesus showed that He knew what was going to happen. *It was all part of God's plan to save people.*

Not only did Jesus go through all the pain of being crucified, but He had to listen to people saying bad things about Him. People shouted at Jesus to come down from the cross if He was really the Son of God. The religious leaders said, "He saved other people, but He can't save Himself." Of course, we know that Jesus was dying to save us. If He had come down from the cross, He wouldn't have made a way for us to be saved from our sins! But the people didn't understand.

We need to make sure that *we* understand what Jesus did for us and why He did it. When Jesus was on the cross, He cried out to His Father, "My God, my God, why have you rejected me?" Have you ever wondered why Jesus said this?

When Jesus was on the cross, He took the sins of all people on Himself. Because He took the punishment for our sins, He felt separated from God. That is what sin does—it separates us from God. It must have been a horrible feeling for Jesus. But He went through it until the end because He wanted us to be right with God.

We know that Jesus' death was not the end of the story. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He came back to life! Some women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried on Sunday morning. They were going to put spices on Jesus' body. When they got to the tomb, the large stone had been rolled away! They went inside the tomb, and there was an angel who spoke to them. He told them not to be afraid. He said that Jesus had risen from the dead and was no longer in the tomb.

Then the angel said to go and tell Jesus' followers—and Peter! Why did the angel speak of Peter separately? Remember the lesson last week? What did Peter do? He lied and said he did not even know Jesus (not once, not twice, but three times!). So God wanted Peter to know that he was forgiven and that Jesus wanted to see him, too.

But the women were too afraid to do as the angel had instructed them. Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions and talked to them about all that had happened. We know from the book of John that Jesus talked to Peter and told him to go and take care of His people.

Jesus' disciples *did* spread the word about the Good News of His death and resurrection. As Jesus' followers today, it is our job to continue spreading the word about Jesus. We need to tell people that Jesus died for our sins and rose again. People need to know that Jesus loves them and wants to have a relationship with them.

Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus say, "My God, my God, why have you rejected me?" (He took our sin on Him, so He was separated from God at that moment.)
2. Why did the angel tell the women to go tell Jesus' disciples - and Peter? (Jesus wanted Peter to know that He wanted to see him even after what he had done.)
3. What is our job as followers of Jesus? (To spread the Good News about what Jesus did for us.)

Prayer Time

Thank God for the cross and what Jesus went through so that we could be saved. Praise God for the empty tomb and the power He has over sin and death.

Life Application

It is easy to get so familiar with the message of the cross that we forget how important it is. Without the cross, we would be lost in our sins. We would have no way to be forgiven and have eternal life. We need to be reminded of all that Jesus went through for us. And we need to remember to share that truth with those around us.

The resurrection is just as important. Without it, we would have no victory over the sin in our lives. Because Jesus has power over death, we can have hope that we will see Him again one day in Heaven.

Planning for Lesson 46
Little Faith
Mark 16:9-14

Preschool Lesson for Remembering the Cross and the Empty Tomb

Hello, boys and girls! Do you remember why we celebrate Easter? It is the time we celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and raising from the dead. As believers in Christ, we can celebrate Easter every day!

Why did Jesus come to earth? He left heaven and became a man so that He could die for all people. Through His death, He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be right with God. Then three days later, He rose back to life again. He showed that He has power over even death!

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Hands-on Activities for Remembering the Cross and the Empty Tomb

Bring the Resurrection Eggs and teach the children about all that Jesus went through before and during the cross. The last egg represents the empty tomb!

Sing “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High.” This is a great song because it summarizes what Jesus did and why He did it!

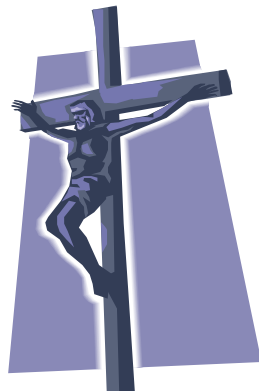
Try singing “Celebrate Jesus” or “He is Lord” to emphasize the significance of Jesus’ resurrection.

Make a craft that involves the butterfly. It is a caterpillar first, then it has to make a cocoon, then it becomes a butterfly. This is a good illustration of how our lives change when we accept Christ!

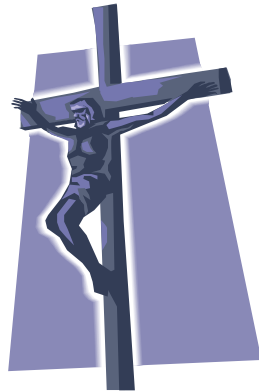
Have children draw pictures or make a diorama of the cross and the empty tomb.

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2 Corinthians 5:21



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us. So we can be made right
with God because of what
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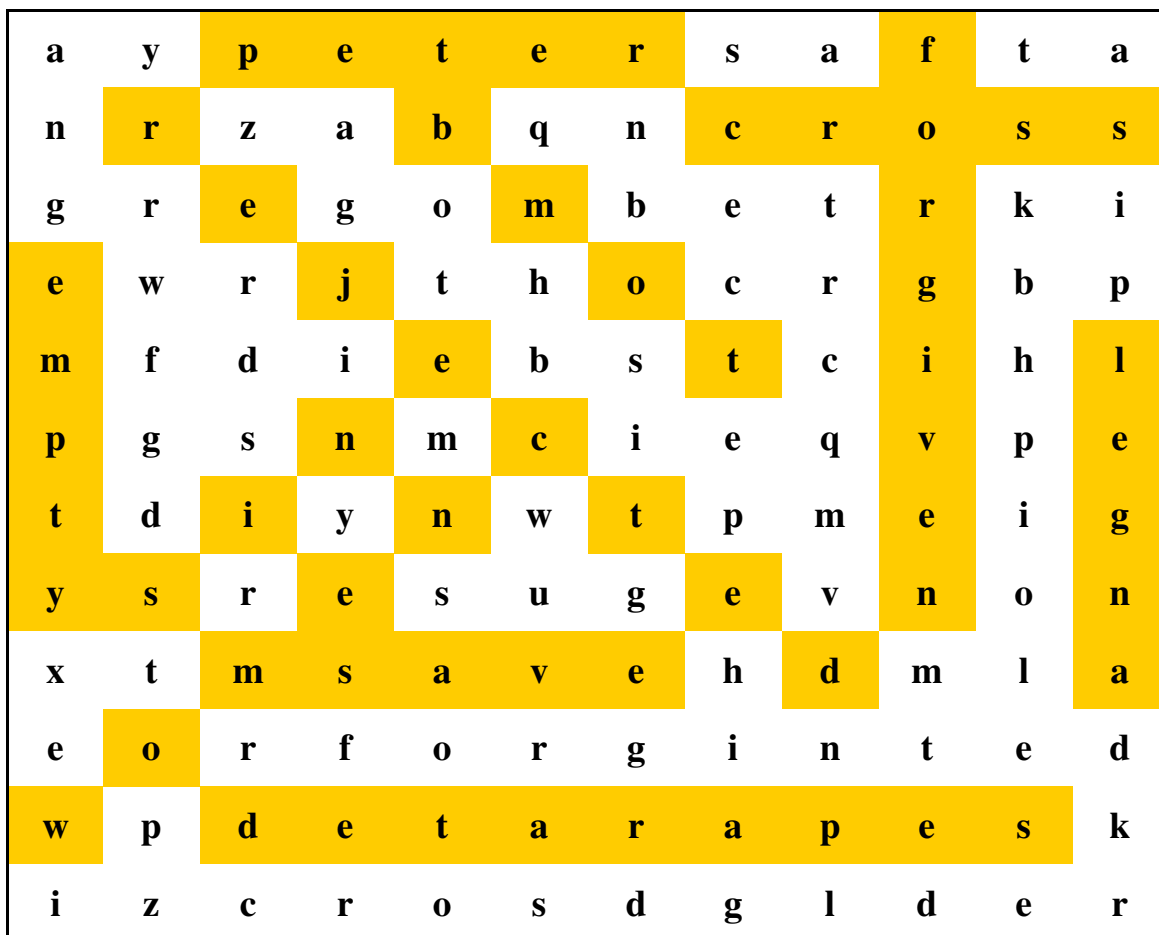
Word Search

Remembering the Cross and the Empty Tomb

a	y	p	e	t	e	r	s	a	f	t	a
n	r	z	a	b	q	n	c	r	o	s	s
g	r	e	g	o	m	b	e	t	r	k	i
e	w	r	j	t	h	o	c	r	g	b	p
m	f	d	i	e	b	s	t	c	i	h	l
p	g	s	n	m	c	i	e	q	v	p	e
t	d	i	y	n	w	t	p	m	e	i	g
y	s	r	e	s	u	g	e	v	n	o	n
x	t	m	s	a	v	e	h	d	m	l	a
e	o	r	f	o	r	g	i	n	t	e	d
w	p	d	e	t	a	r	a	p	e	s	k
i	z	c	r	o	s	d	g	l	d	e	r

cross	rejected	sin
separated	save	forgiven
tomb	empty	angel
Peter	women	

Word Search



cross	rejected	sin
separated	save	forgiven
tomb	empty	angel
Peter	women	

Jesus' body was
laid in a

TOMB

Three days later He
R___s___ from the d___a___

