



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 17: **Jesus is Alive!**

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-15
 Mark 16:1-11
 Luke 24:1-12
 John 20:1-18

Memory Verse

But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.
 1 Corinthians 15:23 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus is no longer in a tomb outside of Jerusalem

Understand that we, too, will be raised to life again at His coming if we belong to Him

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

We have looked at some very sad events that led to Jesus' death. In our last lesson we learned that Jesus was buried in a cave. A stone was rolled in front of the cave and it was sealed. Roman soldiers guarded the tomb.

"The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week." (Matthew 28:1 NIV) It was a new day, Sunday, and all the preparations for and celebrations of the special Sabbath were over. What would this new day bring? The people of Jerusalem were about to find out as an earthquake shook their city.

As the earth shook, an angel came down from heaven sent by God. The angel went to the tomb, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's "body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow." (Matthew 28:3 NIV) The soldiers who were guarding the tomb were terrified! They trembled and fainted.

The women who had prepared spices Friday evening came to the tomb just after sunrise, while it was still dark. Do you remember who those women were? (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, James' and John's mother) They had wondered among themselves who would roll the stone away so that they could finish the burial customs with Jesus' body. They went to the tomb and found the stone already rolled away! When they entered the tomb, they did not find Jesus' body. As they wondered about this, two men in bright clothing appeared to them. This terrified the women. "The angel said to the women, 'Don't be afraid.'" (Matthew 28:5 NIV) The angel even asked them why they were looking for someone who was alive among a cemetery of dead bodies. The angel then said, "I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as He said He would!" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV) And then the angel sent the women back into the city to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Shaking and confused, the women ran away from the tomb. "They were afraid, but they were filled with joy." (Matthew 28:8b NIV) They said nothing to anyone until they had found the disciples. "They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. . . . But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn't make any sense to them." (Luke 24:9, 11 NIV) Even so, Peter and John got up and ran to the tomb. John arrived before Peter, but he only bent over and looked in and saw the cloth lying there. When Peter got to the tomb, he ran straight in. He saw the cloth lying there, too. "He also saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself. It was separate from the linen." (John 20:7 NIV) John also entered the tomb. "He saw and believed." (John 20:8b NIV)

Application

Our memory verse says this about Jesus' resurrection: "There is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back." (1 Corinthians 15:23 NLT) Jesus rose from the dead never to die again. He was the first to do that. Our memory verse tells us that He will not be the only one, though. "Like Christ we also can live a new life." (Romans 6:4 NIV) You can be raised to life again if you choose to follow Jesus. Have you chosen to follow Jesus? If not, what are you waiting for?

If you have chosen to follow Jesus, Colossians 3:1 says, "You have been raised up with Christ. So think about things that are in heaven. That is where Christ is. He is sitting at God's right hand." (NIV) It is so easy to get caught up in what your friends are wearing or the latest video game or the newest car. Once we belong to Christ, our minds need to be focused on what will last, not those things that will change in a couple of months or a couple of minutes!

The disciples went back home, but Mary stayed in the garden at the tomb. She stood outside of the cave and cried. As she was crying, "she bent over and looked into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been." (John 20:11b-12a NIV) They asked her why she was crying. "'They have taken my Lord away,' she said. 'I don't know where they have put Him.'" (John 20:13b NIV)

Mary turned around and saw Jesus, but she couldn't tell that it was Him. She thought He might be the gardener. "'Woman,' He said, 'why are you crying? Who are you looking for?'" (John 20:15 NIV) Mary wanted to know where they had taken Jesus' body so that she could go and get Him. Jesus spoke Mary's name and she knew it was Him!

Mary Magdalene went back into the city and told the disciples the good news. She had seen her Lord with her own eyes. "She found them crying. They were very sad. They heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him. But they did not believe it." (Mark 16:10b-11 NIV)

Some of the Roman guards also went into the city. "They reported to the chief priests all that had happened." (Matthew 28:11 NIV) The religious leaders had tried to keep this from happening by sealing the tomb and stationing guards there, but they couldn't even begin to stop what God had planned. Instead, they made plans. They bribed the soldiers with a large amount of money. "They told the soldiers, 'We want you to say, "His disciples came during the night. They stole His body while we were sleeping." If the governor hears this report, we will pay him off. That will keep you out of trouble.'" (Matthew 28:13 NIV) The soldiers agreed to the plan and "this story has spread all around among the Jews to this very day." (Matthew 28:15b NIV)

So, what will you believe? Will you believe the truth? Mary Magdalene saw Jesus with her own eyes! Jesus had promised that He would rise again and He did. Jesus had even told Mary, the sister of Lazarus, that He is the Resurrection and the Life!

Or will you believe a lie? Lies are sometimes easier to believe because they require very little from us. That doesn't change the fact that you and I are sinners in need of a Savior. Stop believing the lie and trust the Truth (John 14:6) today!

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Go Into All the World



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring an empty box or Easter egg.

Do you remember that when we met last we talked about Jesus being buried in a cave? A huge stone was rolled in front of the cave. Roman soldiers stood around the cave to guard it.

Very early on Sunday morning, right after the sun came up and it was still a little dark, there was an earthquake. While the earth was shaking, an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled the stone away from the cave where Jesus was buried. Then, he sat on top of the stone.

Not long after that, some ladies came to the tomb. They had been there when Jesus was crucified and they came to finish preparing Jesus' body for death. There was a problem, though. Jesus wasn't in the tomb!

The angel told them not to be afraid. Then he said, "I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as He said He would!" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV) And then the angel sent the women back into the city to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

The disciples didn't believe. Nothing made sense to them, but Peter and John went running toward the tomb anyway. They saw the empty tomb and the empty linen cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' body. Jesus wasn't there, though, so they went back home.

Mary Magdalene stayed in the garden. She stood outside of Jesus' tomb crying. An angel asked her why. She told him that they had taken her Lord away. She didn't know where Jesus was. Then Mary turned around and saw Jesus! She didn't know it was Jesus, though, because something was different about Him after coming back to life. Mary thought Jesus must be the gardener and asked if He knew where Jesus was.

Jesus spoke Mary's name. When Mary heard Jesus say her name she knew it was Him!

She went to the disciples and said, "He's alive! I've seen Him with my own eyes!"



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on a picture of the empty tomb.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring doughnuts for the snack. Cut the doughnuts in half and serve on small plates to represent the empty tomb.
- Make “Empty Tomb Cakes.” Use half of an angel food cake. Ice with whipped topping and serve with fruit.
- Make paper Easter Lilies. For each lily you will need two green leaves, one colorful handprint, and a drinking straw. Tape the leaves to the drinking straw. Roll the handprint, fingers up, around the top of the straw. Tape into place.
- Reenact the lesson. Bring a large box to serve as the tomb.
- Sing “He Arose,” “I Serve A Risen Savior,” “He Lives,” “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High,” “Amazing Love,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Have Easter music playing as your students enter and visit. Try playing Sandi Patty’s “Was It A Morning Like This,” Second Chapter of Acts’ “Easter Song,” and FFH’s “Fly Away.”
- Find Jerusalem on a map. Find the garden outside of Golgotha on a detailed map of Jerusalem.

But there is an order
to this resurrection:
Christ was raised as
the first of the harvest;
then
all who belong to Christ
will be raised
when He comes back.

1 Corinthians 15:23

Trace the letters.

H E I S

A L N M E

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?





Word Search

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

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

But there is an order to this resurrection:
Christ was raised as the first of the harvest;
then all who belong to Christ
will be raised when He comes back.

1 Corinthians 15:23



Word Search

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

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

But there is an order to this resurrection:
Christ was raised as the first of the harvest;
then all who belong to Christ
will be raised when He comes back.

1 Corinthians 15:23



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

ANGEL

EMPTY TOMB

MARY

PETER AND JOHN

HE'S ALIVE



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

ANGEL

EMPTY TOMB

MARY

PETER AND JOHN

HE'S ALIVE