



BECAUSE HE LIVES

Jesus' Resurrection

April 4- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; John 20

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BOTTOM LINE: Because Jesus is alive, I have a relationship with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. Jesus was raised from the dead to show that He has defeated sin and death and to offer new life to all who believe in Him.

Context

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner, by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine the surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciple stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom 6:5; 8:11)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:17 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ had not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil 2:9-10)

TAKEAWAYS

- Everything about the world changed when Jesus rose from the dead.
- When you believe in Jesus you become God's friend. You have a relationship with Him that you can count on.
- Jesus' victory over sin and death provides us with victory as well because everyone who has faith in Him will live forever with God.

- **Bottom Line:** Because Jesus is alive, I have a relationship with God.

Small Group Prayer: “Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Social Activity: Ring Toss or Right Left Easter Game

What You Need: Ring Toss and rings and Right Left Easter Game, giant Easter Egg with small prizes

What You Do:

Using the bunny feet as the line marker, ask kids to line up behind the feet to toss a ring onto the pole. When the kids have made 3 rings in a row, they can have a prize.

OR

Using the Right Left Easter Game Printable, ask kids to sit in a circle. You are going to give them a large Easter Egg filled with small prizes. As you read the printable, they are going to gently pass the Egg (so it doesn't open) either Right or Left as you say that word. The person holding the Egg at the end can share the prizes or keep for themselves.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku

Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku

Application Activity: Forgiven

What You Need Forgiven Printable (1 per kid), washi tape, Easter Story Poster(1 per group), egg with prize

What You Do:

- Pass out the forgiven printable.
- Walk through the Easter Story poster with kids.
- Then have them tear their Forgiven printable into 2 pieces down the middle of the page.
- Have them tell you the Easter story using this paper.
- Then give each kid 2 pieces of washi tape to make a cross to “Fix” the torn paper.
- Tell kids they can use this as a way to tell other people about Easter.
- Then give them the prize egg. The prize can be a reminder to each kid about the Easter story or they can share it with someone and tell them what Easter means as they share the prize.

What You Say “Hearing the good news about Jesus can change your life. We are born in sin. Through Adam, all of us have sinful hearts that choose to disobey God. But the Good News is that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Through Jesus, we can have new life today and forever in the future. Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.”

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the puzzle together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

8 And being **found** in appearance as a **man**, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to **death**—even death on a **cross**! **PHILIPPIANS 2:8**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible. Found = Fully man , man=human , humbled= lowered in rank or esteem, complete humility , death=extreme death- death+torture , cross= a criminal’s punishment but without fault

Discussion Questions:

- **When Mary met Jesus, what did He tell her to do?** (Go and tell the other disciples about His resurrection; Matt 28:10)
- **How did the religious leaders try to prevent people from learning about Jesus’ resurrection?** (They bribed the soldiers to lie, saying the disciples stole the body; Matt 28:12-15)

- **Why is it important to know Jesus rose from the dead?** Guide kids to think about what Jesus' resurrection proved about His power over death. Had Jesus remained dead, it would show that His sacrifice was not perfect and did not fully pay for sin.
- **What does it mean that Jesus defeated sin and death?** Guide kids to think about the control sin has over the lives of those who are lost. Discuss the phrase "Dead in sin" and the implication that we are powerless against sin. Remind kids that sin leads to death, both physical (we all die eventually) and spiritual (we are separated from God). Jesus' victory over sin and death means we will rise again to live forever with God in a perfectly restored world.
- **How do you feel when you think about Jesus' resurrection?** Guide kids to think through and process their emotions. Do they feel happy? Excited? Unsure? Remind kids that our feelings do not define what is true, but they can help us understand the truth of the gospel.
- **Who can you share Jesus with this week? How?** Guide kids to think of ways they can talk about Jesus with someone this week and possibly share the activity they did this week in group.