

## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**Bible Story:** Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

**Key Passage:** <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**1 Peter 5:10**

**Big Picture Question:** Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus died and rose again so that we will never die and will live forever with and for Him.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. In Adam, we were spiritually dead in sin, but Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives new life to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

**LARGE GROUP:** Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

### Say This:

Last week we talked about Jesus birth. This weekend we celebrated Easter. In between Jesus birth and Easter, Jesus was baptized and His public ministry began after that. Before that He was basically living a normal but perfectly sinless life. Jesus obeyed God by being baptized, and God spoke from heaven to say that Jesus is His son and God is pleased with Him. Then the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove. Today, we are going to jump ahead a bit to talk about what exactly God had planned.

As we get into our story, we should say our big picture question. Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners. God had a plan since before the creation of the world. His plan included sending Jesus, His own Son, to earth as a human. Jesus obeyed and came as human so that He could perfectly understand our suffering and pain that comes from sin and live the sinless life we fail to live. He then died on the cross for our sins and rose again to defeat death. That's how He rescued sinners!

### Play Video

He is Risen! For thousands of years, Christians have used this phrase as a greeting and a way to declare the good news. When you hear a person say "He is Risen." You can respond by saying, "He is risen indeed." Let's try that together; I'll say the first part, and you respond with the second part. Ready? He is Risen! [Allow responses, coaxing kids to say, "He is risen indeed." Great job!

The crucifixion of Jesus and His resurrection on the third day make up the center of the one big story of the Bible. Ever since Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God and eat the fruit He commanded them not to eat, all of creation had been broken. People could no longer have a loving relationship with God without multiple sacrifices every year. For generations, it seemed as though evil might eventually win. When Jesus- the only perfect Person, who is God the Son-died, it looked like evil actually had won. But in a wonderful turn of events, God brought about the ultimate defeat of sin and death when Jesus' heart began to beat and His lungs filled with fresh breath. Jesus is Alive!

He is still alive today. He will never again die because His sacrifice for sin is perfect and complete. He took the punishment of God's anger for sin on Himself. He died with it, taking it away from everyone who believes in Him. Then He rose from the dead without it. The sin stayed dead, but Jesus did not. Now we can live forever too. Jesus resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.

### **Next Steps**

As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What your next step?

You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe- believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized- show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray- read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others- serve others at home, at school, and at church.

If you need help identifying and taking your next step please talk to you small group leader or me. Pray, ask God to show you your next step and then take it.

### **Christ connection**

Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. In Adam, we were spiritually dead in sin, but Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives new life to everyone who believes Jesus is their Savior. The Bible tells us that when we believe, our sin was put to death with Jesus, and we have new, resurrected hearts.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### **1. Bible Review and Skills**

#### **What You Need: Bibles**

#### **What You Do:**

Distribute Bibles. Guide your group to open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians 15. Explain that the Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians as a letter to believers in Corinth about 20 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. He wanted to remind believers what was true. Choose a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 aloud.

**What You Say:** “ In these verses, Paul shares the gospel- the good news About Jesus. This is the most important news ever! Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day.

## 2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- What did the religious leaders want to do with Jesus? (*kill him, Matt 26:66*)
- What sign was hung about Jesus on the cross? (*THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS, Matt 27:37*)
- Who saw Jesus raised from the dead? (*Mary Magdalene, Peter and the disciples, and more than 500 other people, Matt 28:1,16, 1 Cor 15:5-8*)
- How can you know if you are saved? *Guide kids to see it is not our feelings that save us, it is God's grace given to us through faith. (Eph 2:8-9) Help them understand that salvation comes to everyone who believes in Jesus for life (Rom 10:9) Explain what is written in the Bible- we can know that we are saved, even if we don't feel saved or do sometimes choose sin (1 John 5:12-13)*
- Why is the resurrection so important? *Discuss Jesus' role as a substitute, Jesus died for our sins because He had on sin. If he had stayed dead, it would have meant His sacrifice wasn't enough. Jesus' resurrection ensures that we will live forever with God because it proved that sin is paid for completely.*
- What does it mean to have eternal life? *Help kids understand that eternal life is more than just a place with God after we die. Point out that our new life begins as soon as we believe the truth about Jesus. We become new creatures. Our current lives reflect that change through loving obedience to Jesus, and we look to the future when Jesus will return and fix all that sin has broken.*
- Why is important that Jesus didn't stay dead but came back to life? *Lead kids to recognize that Jesus' resurrection proved that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for sin. It shows His victory over sin and death. Paul said if there was no resurrection, we would still be dead in our sins. (1 Cor 15:17) Jesus' resurrection gives us hope that we too will be resurrected one day. (Rom 8:11)*
- How do we know Jesus is alive? Where is He today? *Guide kids to recall that after Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the women and the twelve disciples as well as more than 500 other people. Emphasize that we ultimately believe by faith in Jesus' resurrection. Today, Jesus is alive in heaven. One day, He will return to set up His kingdom forever. (Acts 7:55-56)*
- How does the fact that Jesus' tomb is empty affect how we live today? *Prompt kids to consider the reality that Jesus had conquered sin and death, providing forgiveness to all who believe in Him for life. The empty tomb shows that God is faithful, powerful, and loving. Because Jesus is alive, we can live with confidence that our future with Him is secure. Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for eternal life. WE can live with a purpose-to know God and make Him known. WE have hope even in hard circumstances. 1! Cor 15:57-58)*

## Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, balloon

- **What You Do:**  
Ask kids to say the Memory Verse with you 1 time.
- Blow up the balloon. As you are blowing the balloon and tying it, ask kids to form a circle.
- You are going to toss the balloon in the air and kids need to keep it in the air as you say the memory verse.
- Each bounce of the balloon is one word.
- Variation: See if you can say the whole memory verse while the balloon is in the air.

**What You Say:** “Have you ever gone through something really difficult and you weren’t sure if you would ever get through it? Our memory verse reminds us that God will restore us and strengthen us. God knows that we are weak, but our weaknesses point us back to our need for Jesus. When life is hard we know that we can’t do anything apart from God.

## Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
- **What do we learn about following God from today’s passage?**
- **What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?**
- **Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?**
- **What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)**
- When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

**What You Say:** Lord God . You are mighty. With Your power, You raised Jesus from the dead. We praise You, Jesus, because You have power over sin and death. Help us to remember the cross and the empty tomb every day. When we trust in You, You give us new life. Help us love You and celebrate what Jesus has done. Give us hearts that want to obey. Amen.