



Elementary

“The Gospel Project”

Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Unit Key Passage: *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 (CSB)*

Bible Passage: Matthew 26-28; 1 Corinthians 15

Main Point: Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.

Big Picture Question: *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.*

1 Getting Started

All Team Members: Make sure you have a name tag on! Welcome and introduce kids to one another.

2 Main Session Teaching

Supplies:

- ❖ **Bible story pictures-** (We are just referencing a few of the stories to review)
 - Jesus’ triumphal entry
 - Jesus’ crucifixion

- ❖ **Other templates-**
 - **Key passage:** John 3:30
 - **Main Point:** Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.
 - **Big Picture Question/Answer:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.*

- ❖ **“The Gospel Project” DVD Lesson:** “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection”

Review:

- **Say:** Who remembers what we've been learning about recently? Can anyone remember any of those stories? (Take a few answers and then, review these stories below with pictures):
 - Last week, we took a break from our regular lessons and celebrated Palm Sunday! Palm Sunday is when we celebrate that Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey and was worshipped by many people.

Today's story:

- **Say:** Last week, we talked about how Jesus was worshipped by many people in Jerusalem. Not even a week later, and the religious leaders were attempted to put Jesus to death on the cross. But the story does not end there, let's find out what happened!
- **Play the DVD video story.** (If DVD not available, teach the story using the printed version at the end of this curriculum)
- **Recap: (*Show picture of Jesus' crucifixion*)** 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 has 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 was alive! (*Show main point template*) **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.**
- **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.*
- **Big picture question:** (*Say*) (*Show big picture question/answer templates*) Our big picture question is ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.***
- **Review key passage:** (*Show key passage template*): *"He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30 (CSB)*

3 Snack & Life Group

IMPORTANT!!!! Please check each child for a yellow allergy sticker along with referring to the sign-in sheet to be properly informed on children who may have food and other allergies.

Snack: Celebration Cupcakes!—Give each child a cupcake. Put frosting and sprinkles on the tables for kids to use to decorate.

As the children enjoy their snack, discuss these Life Group questions with them.

Life Group Questions:

- What did the religious leaders want to do with Jesus? (*kill Him, Matt. 26:66*)
- What sign was hung above 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*)
- Why is it important that Jesus didn't stay dead but He 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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 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.*)
- **Big picture question:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*
- **Base 5/6-For Further Discussion:**
 - Why is the resurrection so important? (*Discuss Jesus' role as a substitute. Jesus died for our sins because He had no 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.*)

- **Say: Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.** Eternal life isn't just for some point in the future but begins right away as our lives change to glorify God.
- **Review the Key Verse below with the kids:** *"He must increase, but I must decrease."*
John 3:30 (CSB)

4 Activities/Games

GAME: Silent Sillies

Supplies: construction paper, tape, marker

Directions: Choose a kid to stand at the front of the room. Whisper a phrase in her ear and challenge her to act it out silently. The rest of the kids should shout out what they think is happening. When a kid guesses correctly, she gets to act out the next phrase. Play several rounds.

Suggested phrases: *playing baseball, delivering mail, landing an airplane, flying a kite, playing chess, baking bread, scuba diving, watering a garden, finger-painting, building a campfire, shopping at the mall, dancing a ballet*

Say: Sometimes what you thought was happening and what was actually happening didn't quite match. In today's Bible story, we will hear the story about when people thought Jesus had been defeated by His enemies. Even though Jesus died on the cross, He rose again on the third day. Because of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, He defeated sin and death!

BASE 5/6 GAME: "It's Empty"

Supplies: several plastic cups (opaque—3 per group of kids), wads of paper

Directions: Have kids get into groups of 3 or more. Give each group 3 cups and a wad of paper. Explain this to each group for kids to play: Place a paper wad beneath two of three inverted cups while the other kids are watching. Try to confuse the other kids by quickly rearranging the cups in front of them. After several seconds, ask the kids which cup they think is empty. To make the game more difficult, turn away from the kids and mix up the cups. Then ask one person to guess which cup is empty. Allow him or her to poll the rest of the group to see if they agree. Then lift the cup she chose to show whether or not it is empty. Make sure each kid gets a turn to arrange the cups. Play as time allows.

Say: In the Bible story we heard today, some of Jesus' friends went to the tomb and expected to find his body there. However, the tomb was empty, just like some of our cups! **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.**

5 Activity Page

Supplies: one “Bleak and Beautiful”/“He’s Alive!” activity page per child, pencils or crayons

Directions: Invite kids to complete the “Bleak and Beautiful”/“He’s Alive!” activity page. Help children to follow the instructions for each activity.

Say: The day Jesus died on the cross is called Good Friday. It was a very sad day, but we call it good because it was the day Jesus took our place and died on the cross for our sins. It was both sad and beautiful. The awesome news is that three days later, Jesus rose again from the dead!

6 Journal Page & Dismissal

Supplies: Journal/color page

Directions: Encourage kids (& parents to help) to complete their journal page at home. Remind parents that the family discussion questions and today’s story are on this page to review at home. There’s also a color page on the back for more fun!

Say: Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope for eternal life. Jesus had to die so that we could believe in Him for our sins to be forgiven. He also needed to rise from the dead to give us hope for eternal life. If we believe in Jesus, we will one day spend eternity with Him!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THE KING’S KIDS TODAY!

Main Session Teaching: (Use if DVD is not available)

After Jesus was arrested, He was led to the high priest. The religious leaders were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.”

The high priest said, “He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!” The religious leaders refused to believe that Jesus was God’s Son.

In the morning, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

“Yes, that’s right,” Jesus replied.

“What should I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked the crowd.

“Crucify Him!” they answered. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over and said, “Do whatever you want.”

The governor’s soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him: “Here is the King of the Jews!” They beat Jesus and led Him away to be killed.

(Show picture of Jesus’ crucifixion) The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Him. Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus shouted again and then He died. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus’ body said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. The guards were so afraid that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just like He said He would.”

The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to the other disciples. Jesus also appeared to more than 500 people who followed Him. Many people witnessed that Jesus is alive! (*Show main point template*) **Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope for eternal life.**