

Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- cardboard
- markers
- scissors
- glue
- white paper
- yarn



Scriptures

Mk 14:43, 53, 15:25, 37, 46, 16:1-7

Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus died because He loves us; now He is alive again

Behavioral Objective(s)

To give thanks to Jesus for dying on the cross and coming back to life again

Memory Verse

"He is not here, but is risen!" (Lk 24:6)



Bible Knowledge

Crucifixion

Crucifixion was a punishment usually reserved for slaves and the lowest types of criminals. It was considered the most painful and degrading form of capital punishment in the Roman Empire.

The condemned person was first scourged with a whip, which had bits of metal attached to it. Then the person had to carry the cross to the place of execution. The victim was stripped naked, laid on the ground with the cross under him, and tied or nailed to it. Nailing obviously made the person die quicker. This was the case with Jesus because the Jewish officials wanted Him dead before the Sabbath. Once the person was nailed or tied, the cross was lifted and secured to a post, usually with the victim's feet hanging just off the ground. Although it would have been extremely painful, some people have been known to survive on the cross for days. Sometimes, the legs of a criminal were broken to make the person die sooner.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Jesus was charged with the crime of being the

"King of the Jews" (Lk 23:38). After being whipped and mocked, He was nailed between two criminals. Having suffered on the cross for six hours, Jesus died with a prayer and a quote from Psalm 31:5, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit" (Lk 23:46).

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were members of the Sanhedrin who had secretly believed in Jesus. After Jesus' death, Joseph of Arimathea courageously asked for the body and placed it in his own tomb. Great haste was needed for the burial since no work was allowed on the Sabbath. The burial preparations were therefore probably incomplete.

The morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and another Mary went to the tomb with spices for anointing the body. Imagine their astonishment when they arrived and found an angel and an empty tomb. The angel reminded them that Jesus had risen from the dead. They then hurried to share this wonderful news with the disciples.

Although Jesus died an agonizing death, it was not an ordinary death. After Jesus resurrected on the third day, He appeared to His disciples and encouraged them with the good news that He had overcome death and sin.



Understanding Your Students

It is natural for everyone to fear death. But death is still an abstract concept for young children. Rather than dwelling on the morbidity, it is better to simply explain that after Christians die, they will go to heaven. Heaven is a safe and happy place.

Of course, if the opportunity arises, openly discuss the issue of mortality with your students. They may have many questions, concerns, and even misconceptions about death, and a discussion will help to clear things up for them. Talk about the fears but keep the explanations simple, so as not to confuse them even more. It is also important to talk about the wonder of God's kingdom. Spend plenty of time sharing some of the testimonies our church brothers and sisters have given regarding visions of heaven. Hopefully, if the beauty of a Christian death is emphasized, the children will consider it a good thing, and thank God for dying for us to prepare this place for us to go to when we pass on.

The story of Jesus Christ's resurrection may be hard for some students to understand, especially if they have lost loved ones. Your students may wonder how someone can be dead and come back to life again. They may wonder, if Jesus can do it, why can't we?

Again, try to keep the explanations simple. Explain to them that Jesus is God's Son, and He came back to life to show us that we will live with Him in heaven someday. If we truly obey His commandments and live as good Christians, we will see Him in heaven one day. A Christian who has died is waiting for that day, when Jesus will wake all of His believers so that they can be with Him forever.

Do, however, emphasize the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. Unlike our loved ones, Jesus is the only One who can and has come back to life, so that we may have salvation. That is amazing. That is why we are always praising Him and giving Him glory by coming to church. We want to tell Him how thankful we are that He saved us and took all of our sins away. No one else on earth could ever do that for us. Only Christ.



Vocabulary

Praise

to say nice things about someone or something

Strength

to have power

Courage

to be brave

Spices

like a seasoning; used to make things smell nice

Tomb

a place where a dead person is buried or placed



Before You Teach

All the disciples declared that they would die before disowning Jesus (Mt 26:35). A few hours later, however, they all scattered. It is easy to say we are devoted to Christ, but our claims are meaningful only when they are tested in the crucible of persecution. How strong is our faith? Is it strong enough to stand under intense trial?

Peter thought he was going to be able to withstand all trials. But we see that his faith slowly fell apart as he was approached by various people throughout the night. There were three stages to Peter's denial. When the servant girl came to him,

he acted confused and tried to divert attention from himself by changing the subject. Then when another girl claimed that Peter was with Jesus, he used an oath to deny that he knew Jesus. When a group of people accused him, he began to curse and swear.

Believers who deny Christ often begin doing so subtly, by pretending not to know Him. When opportunities to discuss religious issues come up, they walk away or pretend they don't know the answers. With only a little more pressure, they may even flatly deny their relationship with Christ. If we find ourselves subtly diverting conversation so we don't have to talk about Christ, we need to be careful. To be truly devoted to Christ means giving all glory to Him, no matter where we are or what we are doing.



Bible Story

I am very excited today. Do you know why? This is because after class I have prepared a surprise for all of you (Make sure you prepare a small surprise for the students after the lesson, e.g. a fun activity, snacks, etc.) Put your hand up if you like surprises. Today, I'm going to tell you a story from the Bible about some people who had a very happy surprise. Let's find out what it was.

Some People Want to Kill Jesus

We've heard a lot of stories about Jesus. He did many wonderful things and helped so many people. Most people who met Jesus loved Him and wanted to be His friend. However, there were some people who didn't love Jesus. Do you know why? When Jesus did kind things, they got angry because they couldn't do the things that Jesus could do. They wanted people to pay attention to them and to praise them, not Jesus. So these men thought of a way to get rid of Jesus.

They said to each other, "Let's kill Jesus. That way, people will forget all about Jesus and do what we say."

Jesus knew that these people wanted to hurt Him.

One night, Jesus sat down and had supper with His disciples. This was when Jesus got up and washed their feet. Do you remember that story from our last lesson? Jesus knew He was not going to be on this earth much longer, so He washed His disciples' feet to show them how to love one another. But during this dinner, Jesus also talked to them about how He was going to die soon.

Jesus said to them seriously, "Something is going to happen tonight. Some people who do not love me are going to come and take me away. And you are going to run away and leave me because you are afraid."

As soon as Peter heard this, he immediately said to Jesus, "I would never ever leave you, my Lord. Even if everybody else leaves you, I won't "

But Jesus said, "Peter, before the rooster crows early tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you do not know me."

"No," Peter said. "I will never say that I don't

know you. You know that I love you."

Jesus Is Taken Away

After dinner, Jesus and His friends walked to a garden called Gethsemane (allow students to repeat after you). Jesus wanted to go to this garden to pray. He knelt down and prayed really hard to God to give Him strength and courage because there were people who wanted to kill Him. These people wanted to nail Jesus onto a cross and leave Him there to die. (Explain to the students that a cross is made out of two big pieces of wood crossed together. Use a picture if necessary.) It was a very painful way to die, but Jesus knew that by dying, He would be able to save us, so He was willing to die for us.

The men who wanted to kill Jesus did not love Him. They found Him in the garden after He finished praying. Jesus let the men take Him and all of His friends were so scared they didn't know what to do. Remember how Peter said he would never leave Jesus? Well, Peter got so scared when he saw the men come and take Jesus that he ran away, just as Jesus said he would. Later on, he said three times to other people that he did not know Jesus. This made both Peter and Jesus very sad.

Then the men who wanted to kill Jesus took Him into the city. They told lies about Jesus so that He would be nailed to the cross. This was a sad time for the people who loved Jesus. They didn't understand what was happening. But Jesus knew this had to happen in order for Him to save the people in the world. This was the only way people could go to heaven one day.

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

So the men who wanted Jesus to die handed Him over to some soldiers. These soldiers made the cross from two big pieces of wood and nailed Him to the cross. Then they left Him to die.

Jesus' friends watched Him being nailed to the cross. This must have made them very sad and afraid. They watched Jesus die. They felt as if they would never be happy again. They thought they would never be able to see Jesus again. After He died, one of Jesus' followers took His body carefully down from the cross and wrapped Him in cloth. They carried Him to a garden and took Him to a cave called a tomb. They put His body in this tomb and rolled a big, heavy rock at the entrance. Then they

went home sad and heartbroken. Jesus was dead and could not be with them any longer.

Jesus Rises From the Dead

Three days passed by and Jesus' friends must have missed Him. Early in the morning three women who were Jesus' friends decided to go to His tomb. They wanted to put sweet smelling spices on His body. They walked up the garden path to where the tomb was and they saw that the big heavy rock at the entrance of the tomb had been rolled away. Who had rolled away this big rock?

They entered the tomb and they saw a wonderful sight. It was the biggest surprise of their lives. An angel wearing a long white robe was there and had rolled the stone away. The women were so surprised and afraid that they couldn't speak.

But the angel spoke to them and said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, who died. He isn't here. He has risen. He is alive. Look at the place where His body was laid. Now, go and tell His friends that He is alive, and they will see Him again."

The women couldn't believe it. They were so

happy. They had heard such good news—that Jesus was alive. They looked around. Yes, the tomb was empty. Jesus was not there anymore. It was a wonderful miracle. What good news to share with everyone. The women turned around and ran down the path. They couldn't wait to go back to tell all of Jesus' friends the most wonderful news in the world. Jesus was alive.

A Great Miracle

Remember at the beginning of the lesson I said there was going to be a wonderful surprise in today's story? Can anyone tell me what that surprise was? Yes, Jesus came back to life. He was nailed to the cross and died, but three days later, He rose from the dead. He did that because He is the Son of God. He came back to life so that He could go to heaven and prepare that wonderful place for us. Then we can all go to heaven one day. That is amazing and special. We should remember to thank Jesus for loving us so much that He died for us. We should also praise Him for coming back to life so that we can go to heaven and be with Him one day.



Check For Understanding

- 1. Why did some people want to kill Jesus?** (They did not like Jesus because they couldn't do the things Jesus could do. They wanted the people to follow them and not Jesus.)
- 2. What did the people who did not like Jesus do to Him?** (They arrested Him and nailed Him to the cross.)
- 3. After Jesus died, where did His followers put His body?** (They put Jesus into a tomb.)
- 4. Who discovered the empty tomb?** (Three women who wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on Jesus' body.)
- 5. What did the angel tell them?** (The angel said that Jesus had risen. He is alive.)

- 6. Do you believe Jesus is alive and is here with us today?** (Allow students to answer.)
- 7. Why did Jesus die for us and then come back to life?** (He did all this to give us salvation, so that we can go to heaven one day and be with Him forever.)
- 8. How does it make you feel, knowing that Jesus died for us?** (We are so thankful because Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for us. He didn't have to die for us. But because Jesus loves us, He died for us to save us. We are so glad He is now alive.)
- 9. What could you give Jesus to show Him how much you love Him? What kinds of things do you think Jesus would like you to bring to Him?** (Let the students respond. Possible answers: our prayers, tithes, best effort, etc.)



Life Application Story

Jesus Is Alive

Ding dong

Susie hoped it wasn't her mom coming to pick her up. She was having so much fun, she wasn't ready to leave yet. But a few moments later, her friend's mom came to the room and told her that it was time to go home.

"I'll see you at school," Susie said to her friend Nancy as she got her things.

After Susie thanked Nancy's mom for having her over, she walked out the front door with her own mom.

"How was your play-date?" asked Mrs. Lim.

"It was fun. We played a lot of different things, like dress-up and tea-party," Susie replied.

"Oh, by the way, we are going to walk home today. I know it's a good fifteen minute walk but it's nice out and it's good exercise," Mrs. Lim said.

"Okay," said Susie. She didn't mind walking. She liked to look at the houses in her neighborhood. She also liked to pick flowers along the way.

"So, is that all you two did this afternoon?" asked Mrs. Lim as they crossed a street.

"Did I tell you that Nancy's pet rabbit died last week?"

"No, I didn't know that," Mrs. Lim replied.

"Nancy was really sad for a few days. She missed her bunny a lot. She says she is feeling better now," Susie reported.

"Well, that's good to hear. It is sad when a good friend, even if it is a pet, dies," Mrs. Lim said. "I remember when I was a kid, I had a dog. His name was Ruff. I was very sad when he died. I kept praying to God to bring him back to life."

"Can God do that?" asked Susie.

"Well, God can do anything. But I am not sure He was going bring Ruff back to life. God knew it was time for Ruff to leave the world."

"But I remember from Bible class that Jesus came back to life. He was already dead for three days," Susie said.

"Yes, you are right. But Jesus came back to life for a very different reason. He came back to life because He wants to save us. If He stayed dead, then He would not be able to go back to heaven and pre-

pare that wonderful place for us to live in. He had to come back to life so that all of His followers can go to heaven one day," Mrs. Lim explained.

"So it's not the same as a pet coming back to life?" Susie asked.

"No, definitely not. God has His plan. His plan is to save us."

"So He wouldn't bring Nancy's pet rabbit back, even if she prayed to Him about it?" asked Susie.

"I don't know what God would do. We have heard of people who have died, and God has brought them back to life. But that is for God to decide. We can only pray and ask God to help us," Mrs. Lim said. "And even if the pet or the person doesn't come back to life, we know that God is with them. So we don't have to worry."

"I guess," Susie said.

Mrs. Lim could see that Susie didn't really understand everything that she had said.

"Susie, sometimes it is hard for us to understand all the things that God does. But we can trust that He is doing everything for us because He loves us. We just have to believe in Him and love Him all the time. Sometimes happy things happen, and sometimes sad things happen. But no matter what, we can trust Jesus to help us. Remember you just told me that He came back to life? Jesus is alive. There is nothing He cannot do. We only have to trust Him."

"Okay," said Susie, as she skipped towards the house. "Maybe we can read that story about Jesus coming back to life again when we get home."

"That sounds like a great idea," Mrs. Lim replied as she skipped along.

Questions to Think About:

1. **What happened to Susie's friend's pet? (It died.)**
2. **Who came back to life to prepare heaven for us? (Jesus Christ.)**
3. **What can we pray to God about? (Allow students to answer.)**
4. **What do we do when Jesus doesn't answer our prayer right away? (Allow students to answer.)**
5. **It is a great miracle that Jesus came back to life. Can you name some other miracles? (Allow students to answer.)**
6. **What can we say to Jesus for dying for us? (We can thank Him for suffering for us and giving us the chance to go to heaven.)**



Activity 1

Jesus Comes Back to Life

Which order did these pictures happen in?

1. Jesus washes the feet of disciples.
2. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.
3. Jesus is arrested.
4. Jesus is nailed on the cross.
5. There is an empty tomb.
6. An angel tells three women that Jesus is alive.



Activity 2

Giving Thanks to Jesus

What can you say to finish the prayer to Jesus?

"I thank Jesus for giving me _____."

Brainstorm with the students the things they can thank Jesus for (e.g. family, friends, the sun, the flowers, for dying on the cross, etc.). Write their answers on the board. Encourage them to write down their answer on the page. Have them take turns and say their prayer out loud.



Activity 3

Jesus Has Risen Badges

Materials:

1. cardboard
2. markers
3. scissors
4. glue
5. white paper
6. yarn

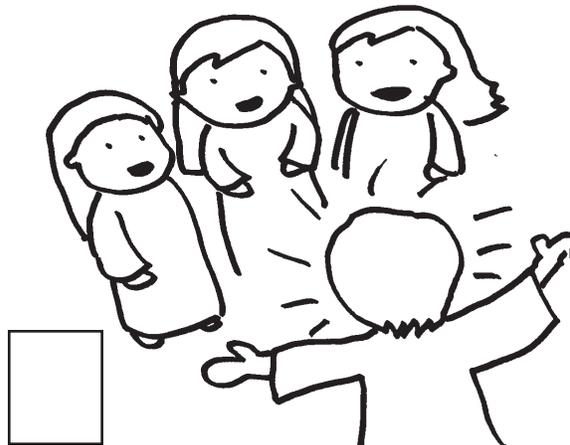
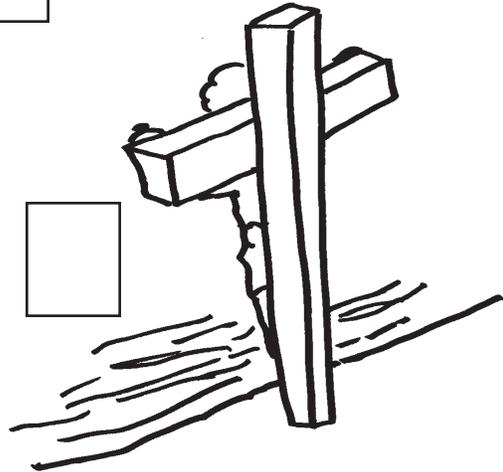
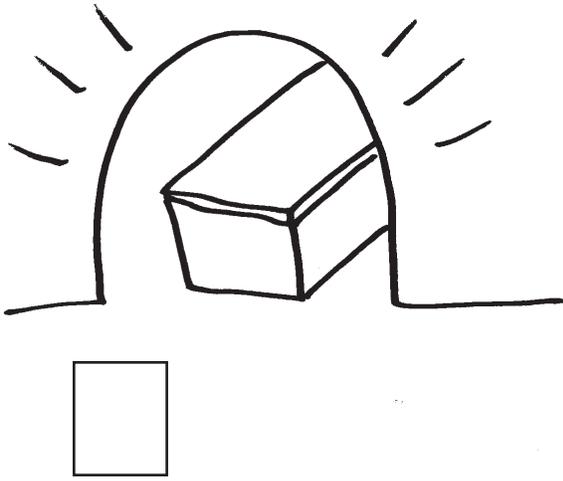
Directions:

1. Cut cardboard into octagonal shapes, roughly 4" by 4" (like a STOP sign). Give one to each student.
2. Cut white paper into octagonal shapes, so that it will fit on top of the cardboard.
3. Help students write the word STOP on one side of the white paper. They can color it like a real stop sign.

4. Glue this paper on to one side of the cardboard.
5. On the other side of the cardboard, help the students write "Jesus is risen "
6. Have students decorate this side of the sign.
7. Using a pair of scissors, make two small holes near the top of the sign. String yarn through the holes and tie off.
8. The students can hang the badge around their necks. Encourage them to explain what the stop sign means when someone stops them. They can also share what they have learned in today's lesson to their family or others they meet that day.

Activity 2:1

Jesus Comes Back to Life
What order did these pictures happen in?



Activity 2:2

Giving Thanks to Jesus

What can you say to finish the prayer to Jesus?

I thank Jesus for giving me

_____.

Praise God. Amen.

