

Jesus' Resurrection; His Appearances to the Apostles

Matthew 27:57-28:20



New Testament 5
Part 2: Jesus' Last Week

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 27:57-28:20; Mark 15:42-16:20; Luke 23:50-24:53; John 19:31-21:25; Acts 1:1-12; 2:22-36; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "In My Father's house are many rooms.... I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2, ESV).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Heaven is a Wonderful Place"](#)
- ["Jesus is Living in Heaven Today"](#)
- ["We're So Glad Jesus Lives!"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Using clay or papier-mache, make a tomb and a "stone" to sit in front of the opening. On a sheet of cardboard or large piece of styrofoam, create a scene, as simple or elaborate as you wish, of Jesus' burial site. Use small plastic figures (or make some from twisted pipe cleaners to represent Jesus and the guards. Wrap Jesus in a shroud (like medical gauze) and place Him in the tomb. Roll the stone in front of the opening of the tomb. Position the "guards" in front of the tomb. With the children's help, the guards may march back and forth. "While it was still dark"



(may want to turn off the lights), the stone is rolled away. When the Sun came up (lights on), the guards are lying outside the tomb, the gauzy shroud is inside, but Jesus is gone! Then “discover” the Jesus figure nearby. Now the words have meaning: “He is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

- **Crucifixion and Resurrection A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, not the lesson book; note on cards CE 7.4, 7.5, and 9.1 that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I know that someday heaven will be my home, just as Jesus promised to all those who obey Him and become Christians.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

It was very sad when Jesus was beaten and then hung on the cross. It was very terrible. But it was what He chose to do so that we can go to heaven. This story has a very happy ending! Today we are going to learn what happened to Jesus after He died and why we can be so happy all the time!

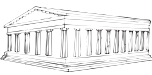
INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

After suffering many hours on the cross, Jesus died. If the “story” ended there, He would have been a great man who did great things, but we would not have the hope of being able to go to heaven one day. But, thankfully, the story does not end there! The best part is yet to come! Let’s see what happened after Jesus died that gives us such joy!

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus suffered for six long hours on the cross. After the soldiers were certain that Jesus was dead, two Jewish leaders who believed in Jesus, named Nicodemus and Joseph [“a good and just man” (Luke 23:50) from Arimathea (about 20 miles from Jerusalem)] buried Jesus after Joseph went to the Roman governor Pilate and asked for permission to give Jesus a proper burial.



HISTORICAL NOTE: The Romans typically did not allow executed prisoners to have a proper burial; they left bodies to rot on the crosses. So, it would have been somewhat of a surprise for Pilate to agree to Nicodemus and Joseph’s request.

2. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus’ body and began the burial preparations. Since the Sabbath would have begun at sundown that day, and since Jewish law allowed only the washing of the body on the Sabbath, the two men wrapped Jesus’ body and placed it in Joseph’s unused tomb (a cave carved into a rock). The women, including Mary Magdalene, who had followed

Jesus throughout His ministry (Luke 23:55; Matthew 27:61) and watched His agonizing death, went with them to the tomb so that they could return later to finish the preparations (putting spices and perfumes under the linen cloth which covered His body). A huge stone was rolled in front of the tomb opening.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Joseph of Arimathea and the Great Stone](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the contention that Joseph could not have rolled the stone by himself.

3. The Jewish leaders persuaded Pilate to send some soldiers to guard the **tomb**, saying that they did not want Jesus’ disciples to come and steal the body and then claim that He had come back to life. Pilate sent the soldiers and also authorized that a wax seal with his official stamp/seal (like a signature) be put on the large stone, to make sure that the tomb would not be opened.



HISTORICAL NOTE: A **tomb** like this was normally opened about a year after the burial. After the body had decomposed, the eldest son or closest relative would come back to the tomb to gather the bones and put them in a box. The box would then be put into a slot in the cave wall.

4. It was customary for the closest relatives of the dead person to stay at home for seven days to mourn. The women who went back to the tomb wanted to finish preparing Jesus’ body, but they were concerned about who would roll away the large stone from the tomb (Mark 16:3). (Apparently they did not know that the Roman guards were there or that Pilate had sealed the tomb.) To their surprise, the stone was rolled away because an angel of the Lord had moved it.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[The Resurrection Narratives](#)” and “[Was the Sun Up, Down, or In Between?](#)” by Kyle Butt, and “[Was Jesus’ Tomb Open or Closed?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to alleged discrepancies surrounding the resurrection narratives in the Gospels.

5. Inside the tomb were the neatly arranged linen cloths that had been around Jesus’ body and on His face. Two men in dazzling clothes (angels) were sitting inside the tomb. They told the women that Jesus was not there and not to be afraid. Jesus had come back to life, just as He had promised!



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the following articles from the Apologetics Press Web site for a study of relevant issues pertaining to the resurrection:

- “[Reasoning About the Resurrection of Christ](#)” (Eric Lyons)
- “[The Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[Have the Bones of Jesus Been Found?](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[The Resurrection of Christ as a Fact of Science](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[Discovering the Truth About ‘The Lost Tomb of Jesus’](#)” (Dewayne Bryant)
- “[What Happened to the Body?](#)” (Brad Bromling)

6. Notice the number of times in the four gospel accounts that Jesus (and the angels at the tomb) used phrases like “Do not be afraid” and “fear not.” But the women left the tomb “with fear and great joy” (Matthew 28:8), and they “trembled and were amazed...for they were afraid” (Mark 16:8). The apostles reacted in the same ways when Jesus appeared to them.
7. The angels told the **women** to tell the apostles, especially Peter, that Jesus had risen from the dead. Peter and John ran to see the tomb for themselves, but “they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead” (John 20:9, ESV). (The guards went to the Jews to explain what had happened and were given “hush money” to keep quiet about Jesus’ resurrection.)



NOTE: It is significant that the honor of announcing Jesus’ resurrection was given to the **women** who had ministered to Him and loved Him throughout His ministry. Yet, when it came time to report what happened, the men did not consider them to be reliable sources of information in this case. (Jewish women were not allowed to testify in court because they were generally considered unreliable witnesses—even though the Law of Moses did not endorse such thinking.) It is also significant that the first person to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection was a woman, Mary Magdalene, who had experienced Jesus’ miracles firsthand.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Faith, Evidence, and Credible Testimony](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of testimony and its import in generating belief.

8. The day that Jesus rose from the dead/came back to life was a Sunday, the first day of the week. Jesus also appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus; these two men ran to the apostles to tell them that they had seen Jesus. Many of His disciples did not believe Jesus had come back to life until He appeared to them later that day inside a locked room and showed them where the nails had been in His hands and feet.
9. Thomas was not in the room with the others at that time and refused to believe that Jesus had come back to life. But a week later, the following Sunday, Jesus reappeared in the same locked room to all the apostles, including Thomas. When he saw Jesus’ wounds, Thomas immediately believed, saying “My Lord and my God!”
10. There were five appearances on the first Sunday and at least five others during the next 40 days. On that first Sunday, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the other women, to all the disciples except Thomas, to the two men on the road to Emmaus, and to Peter. The other five appearances were to all 11 apostles, to seven apostles by the Sea of Galilee, to over 500 on a mountain in Galilee, to James in Jerusalem, and to the disciples the last time in Jerusalem before returning to heaven.
11. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, He would have been just another man—a good man who helped a lot of people—but a mere man like every other man who had died. Because He rose from the dead, we know for certain that there is a life after this one on Earth. We know for certain that, if we obey God, we will be raised to live in heaven with Him after we die. We know for certain that for Christians, death is the end of this life but the beginning of another life, much more wonderful than this one—a life with God that will never end.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Jesus’ Resurrection and the Life of a Christian](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of the significance of the resurrection for Christians.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus’ Resurrection Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bible Fact Toss: Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Ask a review question over this lesson or previous lessons. Toss or roll a Nerf® ball or beanbag to one of the children to answer the question. Then ask the child to toss/roll the ball/beanbag back to you. Continue until all the children have answered at least one question.
- Write the words “Jesus is risen!” on a white piece of construction paper (one for each child). Let the children color/draw a picture of the tomb and Jesus standing beside it.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Bible Fact Toss: Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Ask a review question over this lesson or previous lessons. Toss or roll a Nerf® ball or beanbag to one of the children to answer the question. Then ask the child to toss/roll the ball/beanbag back to you. Continue until all the children have answered at least one question.
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe with questions over this and previous lessons. ([Tic-Tac-Toe board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- “Who Am I?”: Divide the class into two teams. Have one child from each team come to the front. Describe a person from a lesson in this unit. The child who raises his/her hand first gets to answer. If he/she is correct, that team gets a point. The team with the most points is the winner.
- “[Jesus’ Resurrection Chronological Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Resurrection Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Bible Fact Toss: Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Ask a review question over this lesson or previous lessons. Toss or roll a Nerf® ball or beanbag to one of the children to answer the question. Then ask the child to toss/roll the ball/beanbag back to you. Continue until all the children have answered at least one question.
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe with questions over this and previous lessons. ([Tic-Tac-Toe board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- “Who Am I?”: Divide the class into two teams. Have one child from each team come to the front. Describe a person from a lesson in this unit. The child who raises his/her hand first gets to answer. If he/she is correct, that team gets a point. The team with the most points is the winner.
- “[Jesus’ Resurrection Chronological Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Resurrection Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Mark 15-16; John 19, 21; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 15
 - Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Luke 23 (as well as 21-22, 24, if they did not do so when last assigned) and Matthew 28 (as well as 25-27 if they did not do so when last

assigned). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Luke 21-24 and Matthew 25-28 quizzes from AP's [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quizzes. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quizzes for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.

- “Up From the Grave He Arose!” article from the [October, 2001](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*
- [October, 2004](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*
- *Jesus Is Risen*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House (DISCLAIMERS: p. 15—change “wine” to “fruit of the vine”; p. 43—change “power” to “your kingdom” and change “wine” to “vinegar” in both places it occurs; p. 53—note that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)
- *He’s Risen! He’s Alive*, by Joanne E. Bader, Arch books (DISCLAIMERS: p. 9—change “Easter” to “very”; p. 15—skip first paragraph; skip note to parents)
- *Jesus: God’s Only Son*, by Dennis G. Jones, I Can Read! Series, Zonderkidz (DISCLAIMER: the sequence and details of the resurrection events might be slightly different from this recounting)
- *A Surprise in Disguise*, by Jeffrey E. Burkart, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: p. 3—change “Easter” to “the 3rd”)
- *The Story of the Empty Tomb*, by Bryan Davis, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: skip the note to parents)
- *The Resurrection*, by Cynda Strong, Arch books (DISCLAIMERS: p. 8—change “wine” to “juice”; skip the note to parents)
- *Jesus Forgives Peter*, by Molly McElroy, Arch books

SONGS:

“WE’RE SO GLAD JESUS LIVES!” ([Click to hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: chorus of “In the Morning of Joy”)

We’re so glad Jesus lives! We’re so glad Jesus lives!
O we thank Thee, our Father, we’re so glad Jesus lives!
We’re so glad Jesus lives! We’re so glad Jesus lives!
O we thank Thee, our Father, we’re so glad Jesus lives!

“HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE”

Author: Ernie Rettino

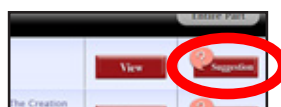
[See Internet for lyrics and tune]

“JESUS IS LIVING IN HEAVEN TODAY”

Author: Margaret M. Self

[See Internet for lyrics and tune]

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



Jesus' Resurrection; His Appearances to the Apostles

Matthew 27:57-28:20



New Testament 5
Part 2: Jesus' Last Week

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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the children’s help, the guards may march back and forth. “While it was still dark” (may want to turn off the lights), the stone is rolled away. When the Sun came up (lights on), the guards are lying outside the tomb, the gauzy shroud is inside, but Jesus is gone! Then “discover” the Jesus figure nearby. Now the words have meaning: “He is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

- **Crucifixion and Resurrection A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, not the lesson book; note on cards CE 7.4, 7.5, and 9.1 that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I know that someday heaven will be my home, just as Jesus promised to all those who obey Him and become Christians.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 5 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Spend more time talking about heaven. Things to discuss:

- We will be with God forever.
- There will be no more pain or sickness.
- There will be no more tears or sadness.
- There will be no more death.
- There will be no more temptation from the devil.

We don’t know exactly what heaven will be like because it is a place with spirits, rather than flesh and blood, but it will be perfect and beautiful beyond anything we’ve ever seen or imagined.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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