



THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Death Conquered!

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1 JESUS LIVES!

Scripture to be studied: Matthew 27:57-66; 28:1-15; Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-11; Luke 23:50-56; 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

The aim of the lesson: To show the importance of the resurrection and the wonder of fellowship with a risen Saviour.

What your students should know: Jesus Christ died and rose again so all who believe in Him can be saved.

What your students should feel: A desire to be saved.

What your students should do: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and receive Him as Saviour.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Jesus' friends bury His body (Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56).
2. Jesus' enemies demand that His tomb be guarded (Matthew 27:62-66).
3. Jesus' followers find an empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10).
4. Jesus reveals Himself to Mary (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18).

The verse to be memorized:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

THE LESSON

Jesus was dead. The day of His crucifixion was the darkest in all of history. Those who loved Him were filled with inexpressible sorrow. They were helpless as they watched the Son of God die on the cross.

1. JESUS' FRIENDS BURY HIS BODY

Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56

But Joseph, a rich man from the village of Arimathea, had known one thing he could do. He had gone to the cross and carefully taken down the body of Jesus and wrapped it in white cloth.

Another man, Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, had also done something. He had brought about 100 pounds (45 kilos) of sweet-smelling spices and placed them with the body of

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The darkest day in all of history was the day the Son of God was crucified, taking upon Himself the sins of the world. The brightest day was the day of His resurrection. The doctrine of a risen Saviour is exceedingly precious. It is the cornerstone of our faith. No religion can boast of a founder who has risen from the dead. In this, the Christian faith differs from religion. By His resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ proved He is indeed the Son of God. Even the grave could not hold Him.

It is only when we grasp something of the wonder of the resurrection that we can begin to appreciate the greatness of salvation. So teacher, ask God to help you to comprehend and relay to others the wonderful truth that we are justified by a risen Saviour and that the experience of fellowship with the risen Saviour is even more glorious than the doctrine itself.

May you "know Him, and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). That knowledge and power should be reflected in your teaching.

Jesus in a new tomb which belonged to Joseph. The tomb was like a large cave cut out of a rock. It was almost sunset when Nicodemus and Joseph finished their loving acts.



Show Illustration #1

Then they had rolled a large, round, flat stone in front of the entrance of the tomb and left the garden.

Two women, both named Mary, had been waiting and watching while the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb. They, too, dearly loved the Son of God. When the stone to the tomb was rolled into place, the two Marys left the garden. They were sad and lonely. They knew, however, what

they could do to show their love for the Lord. They would go home and prepare burial spices to be placed beside His body after the Sabbath.

Christ's disciples were deeply troubled. The death of Jesus seemed very final. Their hopes for the future had disappeared. Their Master and Teacher, the One they thought would be King, was dead and buried. They could not talk to Him. How could they continue to be His followers? They were filled with fears, doubts and dread. What would happen to them now that Jesus was dead? But they had forgotten something. They forgot what the Lord Jesus said when He was still with them: that He would rise from the dead.

2. JESUS' ENEMIES DEMAND THAT HIS TOMB BE GUARDED

Matthew 27:62-66



Show Illustration #2

But the enemies of Jesus had not forgotten. They were worried. Those enemies—the chief priests and Pharisees—hurried to Pilate. *What do they want this time? Pilate wondered. I granted their wish to crucify Jesus. Now they are back again. Why don't they leave me alone?*

One of the men explained, "O Pilate, we remember that while Jesus was still alive He said, 'After three days I will rise from the dead.' We want you to command that the tomb be guarded carefully until the third day. Otherwise His disciples will come and steal His body and say, 'He is risen from the dead.' The last mistake would be worse than the first." (The first mistake in their minds was Jesus' claim that He was the One sent by God; the second mistake, that His disciples might claim He had risen from the dead.)

Pilate listened to what the priests and Pharisees had to say. Then he answered, "You may have the guard of soldiers you want. Go and make the grave as secure as you can."

The priests and Pharisees hurried away. They made certain that the great stone was in its right place in the doorway to the tomb. The tomb was sealed by stretching a rope across the stone and fastening each end of the rope with wax. Then the official seal of Pilate was pressed into the wax. Soldiers were placed on guard. Man had done everything he could to keep the Lord Jesus in the dark tomb.

Hour after hour the soldiers kept watch in the garden to make certain that no man would break the seal.

3. JESUS' FOLLOWERS FIND AN EMPTY TOMB

Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10



Show Illustration #3

The first day of the week (Sunday) was the third day after Jesus was buried. Very early that morning before the sun was up, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary and a woman named Salome left their homes carrying the spices they had prepared to place with the body of Jesus.

As they walked along the road that led to the garden, one of the women asked thoughtfully, "Who will roll the stone away from the door of the tomb when we get there?"

The other two women had no answer. They all knew that the great stone was much too heavy for them to move. (Such stones usually weighed at least 1,000 pounds—450 kilograms.) But the women went sadly on to the tomb though they had no idea how they would get inside. They probably did not know that the tomb had been sealed and guarded by soldiers.

Entering the garden at sunrise, they saw an amazing thing. The great stone had been moved aside and the tomb was empty! What did it mean? Mary Magdalene did not wait to find out. She ran to tell Peter and John. She did not know that earlier an angel had come down from Heaven, rolled the heavy stone away from the door and sat on it. The face of the angel shone like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The soldiers were so frightened that they fell down as if they were dead. When they were finally able to get up, they had fled from the garden in terror.

Now the other Mary and Salome came closer to the open tomb. They stepped inside looking for the body of Jesus. He was not there.

Suddenly two men stood by them in shining clothes. The women were so frightened that they bowed their faces to the earth. They had never in their lives seen anything so brilliant. The men spoke: "Why are you looking in a tomb for Someone who is alive? He is not here. He is risen! Remember how He spoke to you while He was in Galilee and said: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?'"

Then the women remembered that this was exactly what Jesus had said. Why had they not thought of it before?

"He is alive! He is alive!" they cried, and ran to tell the disciples the glorious news.

By this time Mary Magdalene (who still did not know that Jesus had come back to life) found Peter and John and told them all she knew: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him." When Peter and John heard this, they ran ahead of Mary to the tomb. John got there first and looked inside. Peter went right in and found the linen clothes and napkin that had been on the head of Jesus. It was folded and lay in a place by itself. Then John entered the tomb. And he, too, saw and believed that Jesus had risen. Joyfully, Peter and John returned to their homes.

4. JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF TO MARY

Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18

Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb. She still did not know the wonderful news. She was crying as she stooped and looked inside. There she saw two shining white angels, one sitting at the head and one sitting at the feet of the place where Jesus had lain. The angels asked her, "Why are you crying?" She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Someone standing behind her asked the same question, "Why are you crying?" And added, "Who are you looking for?"



Show Illustration #4

Looking at Him through her tears, Mary thought He must be the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him and I will go and get Him." She dearly loved the Lord Jesus for He had once cast seven demons out of her.

"Mary," the Man said.

Then she recognized His voice. It was not a stranger or the gardener she had been talking to. It was Jesus Himself!

"Master!" she cried as she looked into the face of the Lord she loved.

"Do not touch Me," Jesus said to her, "for I have not yet gone up to My Father. Go to My brothers and tell them that I ascend to My Father and your Father and to My God and your God."

Mary rushed to tell the disciples. "I have seen the Lord!" she exclaimed. But they could not believe it. It was too good to be true.

While the women were telling the good news that Jesus was alive, the soldiers rushed into the city to tell the chief priests what had happened. Immediately the priests and elders decided to pay the soldiers a lot of money if they would lie about what had taken place. It was agreed that the soldiers were to say that the disciples of Jesus had come and stolen the body of Jesus while they, the soldiers, had been sleeping at the tomb. (In those days a soldier could be put to death for falling asleep while he was on duty. But the chief priests promised the soldiers that if the governor heard their story about "falling asleep" they would

persuade the governor not to punish them.) So the soldiers began to spread the story that the body of Jesus had been stolen from the grave. Many people believed them then. Many believe that lie today. Satan did not and does not want anyone to know that Jesus had really risen from the dead.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive, that He rose from the dead? Romans 10:9 tells us "that if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and will believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Are you saved? Have you "confessed" Him by telling others about Him? Write in your notebook the names of those whom you want to introduce to the Lord *this week*.