

April 3, 2013

Jesus is Risen

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-20

**LESSON FOCUS**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23

*"Jesus said: "Because I live, you will live also!"* John 14:19

**Jesus is Risen - Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11**

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished!" The payment for our sin was completed by His death. But Jesus not only died for sin, but He was victorious over death. The ransom for our souls was paid by Jesus through His suffering and death. As He promised, on the third day He arose from death. He was victorious over sin and death. Jesus lives, the victory's won! And because He lives, we also have life; life now, and life forever with Him in His heavenly Home.

- The Sabbath (no-work day) was over.
- At the "first light" of Sunday morning the women, who followed and ministered to Jesus with their material things, went to the tomb with "sweet spices" to embalm Jesus' body for burial.
- Mary of Magdala (Mary Magdalene) may have gone to the tomb before sunrise, for she found the tomb empty and hastened with her cry of sorrow to Peter and John, assuming that the body of Jesus had been stolen.
- During her absence from the tomb, the other women arrived and even entered into it.
- There they saw the two angels (Matthew and Mark refer to only one angel, the one who was the spokesman).
- The angel's message was: "He is not here, for He is risen.. .go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.. .He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him!"
- Meanwhile Peter and John were hurrying to the tomb, followed by Mary.
- John arrived first and paused for a time outside the tomb, but when Peter arrived he went directly into it.
- John joined him to observe that the body of Jesus had not been stolen, for the tomb did not appear to have been burglarized.
- They silently pondered the discovery as they returned again to the city.
- Mary arrived at the tomb after Peter and John had left.
- She lingered there, weeping over what she believed to be her losses: first, the living Jesus; now, even His dead body.
- Once more, two angels appeared and addressed Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping?"
- Mary replied: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."
- She turned away as if to find the body of Jesus in another place and, suddenly, Jesus stood before her in His living presence.
- Tearful and sorely grieved, Mary did not recognize Jesus.

- She thought it was the gardener, so she begged information concerning the whereabouts of Jesus' body so she could take Him away.
- She again turned toward the tomb and now Jesus spoke to her: "Mary!"
- She immediately recognized His voice and with great relief uttered the comforting word: "My Lord!" (Rabboni, Aramaic; Rabbi, Hebrew.)
- We recall that Jesus had taught: "My sheep hear My voice...and they know me."
- Mary was the first to whom the risen and living Jesus revealed Himself.
- After that He met the other women who were returning to Jerusalem pondering the wondrous message of the angels.
- Jesus instructed them: "Rejoice! Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."
- We are told that while Mary's report caused Peter and John to run to the tomb, the other disciples considered the report from the other women to be astonishing, but utter nonsense.
- They did not even go to the tomb out of curiosity.
- The disciples isolated themselves in their room to agonize in their grief over the loss of their Master, Jesus.
- They forgot that He had told them that He would rise again on the third day and go before them into Galilee.

***Dear Lord Jesus, may the love that You demonstrated for me on the cross fill my heart with love and appreciation. Truly You have rescued my soul from hell through Your innocent sufferings and death. I desire now to show my love to You by teaching the truths of Your crucifixion to my students. As Your Holy Spirit has already worked faith in my heart, so also I pray that He might now work through me to strengthen the faith of these students. Give success to my humble effort for Your name's sake. Amen.***

## EARLY ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY

### Jesus is Risen

**Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-20**

*Be sensitive to those students who are unusually attentive or who have lots of questions. If possible, pull them aside for questions and prayer. Pray with the larger group, thanking God for sending His One and Only Son to take our punishment.*

***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** Romans 6:23

***“Jesus said: “Because I live, you will live also!”*** John 14:19

### Jesus is Risen

Very early Sunday morning after Jesus was buried, women went to the grave to make Jesus' body sweet smelling. They had wanted to go the day before, but it was the Sabbath Day. Mary Magdalene was the name of one of the women.

As they walked to the grave, the women wondered who would roll away the big stone in front of the grave. It was too heavy for them to move. As soon as they arrived at the grave, they saw that the stone was already rolled away! The body of Jesus was not there. How surprised they were! Something wonderful had happened that morning! An angel had come and rolled away the stone. He did this to show that Jesus had arisen. The angel's face was as bright as lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. The Roman soldiers were afraid and fell to the ground. They got up and ran to the city.

Mary did not know what had happened. She thought the enemies of Jesus had stolen the body. Mary ran back to the city to tell two of Jesus' disciples, Peter and John.

The other women went into the grave. Two angels were sitting there. They were dressed in white clothes. The angels said, “Don't be afraid. Jesus is alive again. Tell the disciples they will see Him soon.”

Peter and John went to the tomb, followed by Mary. They discovered that Jesus' body was gone! Peter and John went back to the city, but Mary stayed. She was very sad. She was crying, but while she was crying, she heard a man's voice. She thought the man was the gardener and asked where the body of Jesus had been taken.

Jesus said, “Mary!”

Mary recognized Jesus' voice and praised God.

Jesus showed Himself to the other women on their way to Jerusalem. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Jesus is risen!

**Dear Jesus, We are very happy that You rose from the dead. After dying on the cross, You showed everyone that You are God and that You have saved us all from hell. Thank you for dying and rising so that we can go to heaven with You. Amen.**

## **Easter Hymn**

*Sing with if you can!*

**I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head.**

## **BIBLE CHALLENGE**

Read this passage from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn this verse.

***“Jesus gave his life for us.”*** (1 John 3:16)

***“This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us.”*** (1 John 3:16)

Read this passage from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn this verse.

## **VIDEO SEGMENT**

The events should focus on the resurrection.

### **Early Elementary - The Story of Jesus for Children**

*After the video segment, ask if there are any questions. Take a moment to answer them.*

## GAME

### Impossible? Knot!

*Bible Focus: Psalm 119:11 – “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

#### Materials

3 foot length of rope for every 2 kids

#### Lead the Game

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a length of rope.

Challenge kids to hold one end of the rope in each hand and tie a knot without letting go of the ends. Let one partner attempt to tie the knot while the other partner cheers him or her on. Then let partners switch roles.

Play for several minutes. If anyone figures out the solution, have that pair sit down until the end of the game. Then they can explain the solution to the rest of the class. If no one comes up with the solution, explain it yourself: The knot can be tied by crossing your arms over your chest, so that one hand is in front of your arms and the other is behind or below them, almost like crossing your arms twice. Then lean over and pick up the ends of the rope with your arms still crossed. When you unfold your arms, a knot is automatically tied in the rope.

#### Discussion Questions

- 1. Did you think it would be possible to tie a knot with the rules I described? Why or why not?**
- 2. Do you think people thought it was possible for Jesus to rise from the dead? Why or why not?**
- 3. How do you explain Jesus rising from the dead?**

**Say: Being able to tie a knot in this game was just a trick. But Jesus rising from the dead was real!**

## **SCIENCE EXPLORATION**

### **Jesus Dies and Is Resurrected, Luke 23:26-24:53**

Celebrate Jesus' death on the Cross and His resurrection three days later so that we may live eternally.

#### **Resurrection Rolls**

##### **You'll Need:**

Large marshmallows - package

Melted butter – ½ stick

Cinnamon and sugar mixed – 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon

Crescent rolls in the tube, enough for one per student – 2 tubes

Bowl for melting butter

Bowl for mixing cinnamon and sugar

Foil

Toaster oven

Oven mitts

Plates for eating

Napkins

Microwave for melting butter

Metal cart for microwave

Metal cart for toaster oven

Divide the crescent rolls and flatten. Mix sugar and cinnamon together. Dip rolls in melted margarine, then into sugar mixture. Wrap roll around a marshmallow, covering completely. Dip once more into butter, and again into sugar. Place on foil lined baking sheet.

Bake at 375 degrees F for about 10 minutes, or until done. Rolls should be completely empty when cooled...like the empty tomb.

-give each child one piece of roll dough—that represents the tomb

-give each child a marshmallow—that represents Jesus' body

-roll each marshmallow in butter and then in sugar mix—represents the oils and spices the body was anointed with upon burial.

-Wrap the tomb around the body and seal it tightly—they rolled a stone over the tomb to secure it.

-Roll the tomb in butter, then in sugar mix, and let them rise. Don't wait for three days but to kids it could seem like that. Jesus' followers had to wait too.

-Bake at 375 for 15 min. when finished notice that the tomb is now empty. Jesus is alive

**What happens:**

Hot air expands - because as the thermal energy increases, the molecules in the air vibrate faster and faster, causing them to bump into each other, and move apart, pushing against the sides of whatever container they are in.

And if, as in this case, the container happens to be a sugary marshmallow, softened by the heat of the oven, then the expanding air will push against, and expand it, until it bursts open, releasing the air, which goes bouncing and expanding on into open space, while the now empty marshmallow, deflates.

And if, all of this happens inside of a baking roll, the sides of the roll will push out, while they are still doughy, and then harden into place, thanks again to the heat of the oven, where they will remain, even after the marshmallow deflates, leaving a nice, hollow cavity inside the roll, resembling an empty tomb.