

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.

VIDEO SEGMENT

Watch the rest of the video tonight. The events should focus on the resurrection.

Preschool – The Jesus Movie

WELCOME ACTIVITY



What you'll need:

- ½ black chenille stem
- Paper coffee filter
- Water color paints
- Paint brush
- Water

How to make it:

1. Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper, the paint and water will soak through. Set aside on paper towels to dry.
2. Fold the chenille stem in half. Remember, you are only using half of a chenille stem to begin with.
3. Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about ½" pleats.
4. Position the pleated coffee filter into the bent end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend.
5. Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place.
6. Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about ¼" to create the antennae.
7. Fan out the butterfly wings.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is Risen

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

Read from your Bible. The Beginner's Bible, page 446ff. (The story is the same from the Beginner's Bible, please tell tonight's story.)

"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

We have all messed up and done things that are wrong. Jesus wants us to know that He still loves us. He died for our sins.

Sing, "Jesus Loves Me."

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me ... The Bible tells me so.

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 the 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.**

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Preschool

- Bring or find objects and distinguish whether they are alive or not alive. (Examples may include plants, pictures of people, chair, toys, rocks) Talk about what it means to be alive. Then, share how Jesus came back to life. Explain that we celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive!
- Place words or phrases of the verse on slips of paper inside plastic eggs. Hide the eggs and let the kids find them and put the verse in order.
 - ***“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
- Bring seeds to pass out to the students. Talk about how a seed has to be put in the ground before it can bring life. Compare this to Jesus—He had to die and be buried to have the victory of the resurrection! You could also bring flowers to show what the seeds become. Flowers are a great way to celebrate life!
- Make an Empty Tomb out of paper plates. Use a large paper plate as well as a small one. Cut off the bottom fourth of the large paper plate and decorate it as a rock with an opening. In the opening, print “He’s Alive!”. Using a brad or paper fastener, attach the small paper plate to the large plate as the rock to be rolled in front of the tomb. Allow students to retell the story using their paper plate tombs.

Easter Morning Song

(Sing to the tune of “Mary had a Little Lamb”)

Written by Narita Roady

Jesus died for you and me
You and me
You and me
Jesus died for you and me on the cruel cross

They put him in an empty tomb
Empty tomb
Empty tomb
They put him in an empty tomb and rolled the stone in place

Early Easter morning
Morning
Morning
Early Easter morning
He came back life

It was a sad, sad day when Jesus died.	Cross one index finger over the other in the shape of a cross.
His friends loved him so. They even cried.	Rub fists on eyes, like you are crying.
And it was very very dark for three long hours	Hold up three fingers.
The sun went away by God's own power	Spread out fingers of one hand like a sun, bring other hand in front of it to cover the "sun".
But, wait... remember what Jesus said:	Point and shake index finger.
I will die on the cross, but I won't stay dead	Shake head, "no".
It was a happy, happy day when Jesus did rise!	Raise arms up and out suddenly, like a jack-in-the-box.

Mary went to the tomb; and what a surprise!	Place hand over open mouth, as if you are gasping.
Jesus wasn't there; The stone was rolled away.	Roll hands one on top of the other. Shake head "no".
And Jesus was alive! What a happy day!	Raise arms up and out suddenly, like a jack-in-the-box.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Blessing:

**May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.**

*Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly
make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your
hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

**And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.**

*Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then
move your hands out to the sides.*

**And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,
keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!**

Cross your hands over the heart.

*Move to a "strong man" position. Then
cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to
communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and
the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

Sing: Jesus Loves Me

***Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.***

***Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.***

***Dear God,
Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus
To die on the cross for me.
I praise you for your awesome power
that raised Jesus to life
after he died and was buried in the tomb!
Thank you for loving us so much
that you that you let us come and live with you
in heaven, In Jesus' name,
Amen.***