

## To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

## Lesson 26 – An Historic Document (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. Explain that God is intimately related to history, and He initiated the greatest event in all of history – the resurrection of Christ.

### Study Notes:

#### **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

Some Christians in Corinth claimed that there would be no resurrection of the dead. Why was this a problem (verse 13)? If there is no resurrection, Christ has not risen.

What is the result of our faith if Christ has not been resurrected (verse 14)? Its worthless.

What is the result for us personally if Christ has not risen (verse 17)? We are still in our sins.

*Summary:* The entire Christian religion stands or falls in the resurrection of Christ.

### *Evidences for the Resurrection*

#### **1. The Empty Tomb**

Matthew 28:1-6, 11-15

The fact that the empty tomb was not contradictory in Jesus' time – even for His enemies. If the Romans or the chief priests wanted to put an end to the talk about the resurrection, all they had to do was produce His body. Because they could not, they had to invent a story about Him because the tomb was empty.

#### **2. The Roman Guard**

Matthew 27:62-66

The Roman soldiers were well known for their strict discipline and severe punishment of those who abandoned their posts. They kept watch twenty-four hours a day to ensure that no one came to take the body. They were well armed and well trained for this type of role.

#### **3. Eyewitnesses Testimony**

Luke 1:1-4

In court, eyewitness testimony of an event is one of the strongest forms of evidence, especially when that testimony can be corroborated by a number of witnesses. Luke tried to be as accurate as possible in his version, so that the reader could be sure of the accuracy of the events contained in it.

John 1:33-35

John himself was a personal eyewitness to the death and resurrection of Jesus – again, the strongest type of evidence.

Acts 2:22-24

Peter, in his first sermon, explained that the facts of Jesus' miraculous life were well known to everyone in the area. No one in the crowd contradicted him on the actual arguments. They just hurled insults and false accusations. (2:13).

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

In this fascinating passage, Paul explains that more than 500 people had personally seen the risen Christ and that the majority of them were still alive. The fact that these Scriptures still exist show us that, at least, no in Paul's time could contradict his story. He is saying, in effect, "If you don't believe me, ask these people! They saw Him, too!" 500 live eyewitnesses are a very strong testimony.

Application:

Help students to note some ways in which Christ has changed their lives. Encourage them to share their experiences with someone this week.

## Lesson 26 – An Historic Document

### **The Rest is History**

What do you think was the most significant historical event in the past 50 years?

The Bible is a book that God uses to reveal spiritual truth, but it is not just a book of teachings and sayings. It is an historical document. In this lesson we will study the importance of the Bible's historical accuracy.

### **The Big Event**

Whatever your answer to the opening question, the most important historic event of all time is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christianity is completely dependent on the truth of that event. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and answer the following questions.

Some Christians in Corinth claimed that there would be no resurrection of the dead. Why was this a problem (verse 13)?

What is the result of our faith if Christ has not been resurrected (verse 14)?

What is the result for us personally if Christ has not been resurrected (verse 17)?

As you can see, the Resurrection is the central event of the Christian faith, and in fact, of all history. Accepting the truth of this event obviously takes a certain amount of faith, but it need not be a hidden faith. There is evidence for it. Read the following verses and see how each one gives evidence for the historical truth of the Resurrection.

#### 1. The Empty Tomb

- Matthew 28:1-6, 11-15

2. The Roman Guard  
- Matthew 27:62-66

3. Eyewitness Testimony  
- Luke 1:1-4

- John 1:33-35

- Acts 2:22-24

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

The point of these passages is to illustrate that belief in the resurrection is reasonable. As Christians, we accept this by faith, but many who are not Christians want to know if there is evidence for what we believe. One of the strongest pieces of evidence is the evidence of a changed life. What are some things in your life that give evidence to the work of Christ in you?

How can you use this evidence to explain the reality of Christ to someone this week?

Scripture to Memorize:

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4