

Life of Christ

Jesus is Alive!

Matthew 27:57—28:10

Younger Verse

Thank God, who gives us victory . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:57

Older Verse

How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:57

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus did not stay dead—He rose on the third day
Understand that Jesus has power over sin and death
Learn that Jesus helps us to have victory in our lives

Welcome Time

Ask: Do you like to be on the winning team? It may have looked like Jesus lost the fight against evil, since He died on the cross. But three days later, He rose from the dead! He showed that He is more powerful than anything—even death! And if we believe in Him, we can have victory in our lives too!

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we talked about Jesus dying on the cross. **Ask: Why did Jesus die on the cross?** (to pay the price for our sins)

After Jesus died, a rich man named Joseph went to Pilate, the Roman governor. **Ask: Do you remember Pilate from last week's lesson?** He is the one who sent Jesus to die on the cross. Joseph asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body. Pilate sent orders for Jesus' body to be released to Joseph.

Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a long linen cloth. Then he took the body and placed it in a tomb that he owned. **Ask: What is a tomb?** A tomb is a cave that people have made out of rock. It is a place to put people when they have died. When Joseph left the tomb, he rolled a HUGE rock over the entrance to the tomb.

The next day, on Saturday, the religious leaders who had wanted Jesus dead went to Pilate also. But they wanted to make sure no one tried to steal Jesus' body. So they asked Pilate to have the tomb guarded. So Pilate sent guards to protect the tomb from intruders.

At dawn on Sunday, some women were walking to Jesus' tomb when a terrible earthquake happened! An angel of the Lord appeared, shining brightly. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. The guards who were there were terribly frightened!

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He said, "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as He said." Wow! The women must have been very excited! The angel also told the women to hurry back to the disciples and tell them the good news.

On their way, they met JESUS! They were so thrilled. They held His hands and wor-

shipped Him. He told them to go and tell the disciples the good news.

The ladies were so excited because they knew that Jesus really was God's Son. He had done something that no one else could do. He died and came back to life! They now *knew* that everything Jesus had said was really true.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But He also rose again to show that He really is the Son of God. We can know that Jesus has power over sin and death. We can trust Him completely.

Jesus tells us that He is the only way to Heaven. Jesus died for all the wrong things we have done. He tells us that we can go to Heaven by trusting in Jesus and believing in Him. If you would like to learn more or know how to ask Jesus into your life, talk to us.

Review Questions

1. Who took Jesus' body and placed it in a tomb? (Joseph)
2. What is a tomb? (a cave made out of rock to put people in when they die)
3. What day did the women go to the tomb? (Sunday)
4. What did the women find at the tomb? (an angel, shining brightly)
5. Why was it important that Jesus rose from the dead? (to show that He has power over sin and death)

Prayer Time

Encourage students to thank Jesus for dying on the cross for them. Then worship Him for having power over sin and death! He is alive!

Life Application

**“Death has lost the battle! Where is its victory? Where is its sting?”
(1 Corinthians 15:54b-55, CEV)**

Satan thought that he had defeated Jesus when He died on the cross. But the story was not over. Three days later, Jesus showed Satan and the world that He had power over death! Jesus won the fight with sin and death!

Sometimes in our lives, we feel like evil and sin is very strong. We may feel defeated or “beaten down” by sin in our lives, or evil in the world. But remember that when we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we have His Holy Spirit in our lives. The Bible says that “You belong to God, and you have defeated these enemies. **God's Spirit is in you and is more powerful than the one that is in the world**” (1 John 4:4, CEV).

In other words, we need to remember that if we believe in Jesus, we are on the winning team! Jesus already won the battle with Satan. He helps us to have victory over evil in OUR lives. But we have to ask for His help! He wants to give us power to live for Him and make good choices.

Planning for Next Lesson
Four Friends Help
Matthew 9:1-8

Preschool Lesson for Jesus is Alive!

Easter is such a fun day! **Ask: Do you know why we celebrate Easter?**

The first Easter Sunday happened a long, long time ago. People killed Jesus by putting Him on a cross a few days before Sunday. Early on Sunday morning, some women went to put perfume and spices on Jesus' body.

Believe it or not, they got a BIG surprise! On the way to see Jesus' body, there was a rumbling noise like an earthquake (make noise with your feet). When the women got to the grave, they were shocked! (Gasp, like you are shocked) The grave was open and an angel was sitting on the rock!

Suddenly, the angel spoke to the women. The angel told them that Jesus was alive! The women were so excited.

They ran back to tell all Jesus' friends the good news that Jesus wasn't dead any more. He was alive! (make motions like you are running)

As they were running, Jesus met them! They hugged Him and told Him how much they loved Him. Jesus told them to go tell others the great news.

The women obeyed and told everyone the good news. Jesus was alive! That is why we celebrate Easter—because Jesus is alive! We must tell our friends this good news like the women did.

You can go back over the story, letting the children act it out. You could bring props like a bottle of perfume or spices. Have a designated area for the tomb. Let some of the children carry the perfume/spices to the tomb. Another child could be the angel. All children can stomp their feet to produce the "earthquake." Then everyone can celebrate Jesus!

Hands-on Activities For 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.

Make a special Easter scene with a paper plate or carve out a hole in a cupcake and put a cookie as the stone in front. When the stone is rolled away—it is empty!

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!

Bring hard-boiled eggs for the children to decorate. Talk about how eggs represent new life. We can have new life in Christ!

For preschoolers, bring objects and distinguish whether they are alive or not alive. Examples may include plants, pictures of people, grass, flowers, 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!

Try singing “Celebrate Jesus” or “He is Lord” to emphasize the significance of Jesus raising from the dead.