

Unit 27 • Session 1
Jesus' Resurrection

Bible Passage:
Matthew 28; John 20

Story Point:
Jesus rose from the dead and is alive.

Key Passage:
John 11:25

Big Picture Question:
Where is Jesus now? Jesus is in heaven.

Parent Bible Study

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciples stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom. 6:5; 8:11.)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:17 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil. 2:9-10)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28; John 20

On the third day after Jesus died on the cross, Jesus' friend Mary went to the tomb early in the morning. Mary saw that the big stone had been moved away from the entrance.

Mary ran to find Peter and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I do not know where His body is!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went inside the tomb and saw the cloths too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then John and Peter went home.

Mary went back to the tomb and cried. She looked inside and saw two angels. "Why are you crying?" they asked.

"They've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they put Him," Mary said.

Then Mary turned and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Him. She thought the man was a gardener.

"Why are you crying?" Jesus asked. "Who are you looking for?"

Mary said, "Sir, if you have taken away Jesus, tell me where He is and I will go get Him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary looked at Him and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

While this happened, some of the soldiers who were guarding the tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders what happened. The leaders gave the soldiers money and told them to lie about what they saw. They told them to say that Jesus' disciples stole His body while they were sleeping. So the soldiers took the money and told everyone that Jesus never rose from the dead.

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.