



5

The Resurrection

Key Theme

- God's plan of redemption was in place before time.

Key Passages

- Matthew 28:1–10; John 11:25–26, 14:19; 1 Peter 1:3

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe what happened at Jesus's tomb on the third day after His death.
- Explain why Jesus's Resurrection is such good news.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the puzzle piece clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher using only the letter clues.



Activity 1: The Resurrection Class Notes

Students will fill out The Resurrection Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

The women went to Jesus's tomb early on Sunday morning. They found the stone to the tomb rolled away, the tomb empty, and an angel of the Lord there. The angel told them Jesus was risen from the dead. On their way to tell the disciples, they saw Jesus and worshipped Him. Jesus's Resurrection from the dead is important because it provides an inheritance for believers—a living hope—eternal life with God.



Activity 2: Truth Be Told Review Game

Students will review the lesson by playing the Truth Be Told Review Game.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



THE RESURRECTION CLASS NOTES

- Print one The Resurrection Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Resurrection Class Notes for each student
- The Resurrection Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



TRUTH BE TOLD REVIEW GAME

- Assemble the Truth Be Told Game Board Posters found in your curriculum kit.
- Print the Truth Be Told Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key for your use.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Number Cards. These will determine how many spaces to move.
- OR bring in dice or a game spinner to be used to move teams around the board.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Question Cards.
- Bring buttons or other small items to use as game pieces for each team and poster putty for adhering game pieces to the game board.

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Number Cards OR use dice or a game spinner
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty



Memory Verse

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Jesus lived His life and died according to God's plan ordained before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). On the Cross, Jesus finished the work the Father had sent Him to do. He bore God's wrath on Himself and took the punishment for the sins of everyone who would ever turn in repentance and faith to Him.

But there was still more to come—the glorious event that brought assurance to the stunning truth that sinners would have eternal life with God (John 5:24; Romans 5:18)! This event is the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave (Matthew 28). What happened on that victorious morning?

We know that Joseph of Arimathea had taken the body of Jesus and laid it in a new tomb. A large stone was rolled against the door (Matthew 27:59–60). The tomb was sealed, and a guard was placed at the entrance (Matthew 27:66). The Bible tells us that two women came to the tomb at dawn. There had been a great earthquake and an angel of the Lord had appeared from heaven and rolled the stone away from the door. Now the angel sat upon it (Matthew 28:1–2). This was the messenger from God. He announced that the Savior, who had been crucified, had risen just as He said He would. The women were instructed to go and tell the disciples this amazing news (Matthew 28:5–7).

As though this were not enough good news for one morning, the women then encountered Jesus Christ Himself! He told them to “Rejoice!” and “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me” (Matthew 28:9–10).

What is the significance of this miraculous event? The Apostle Paul understood what it meant, and he understood the importance of believing it is true. You see, Paul tells us that if Christ is not risen then our faith and our preaching is empty. And there would be NO resurrection to eternal life for believers (1 Corinthians 15:12–15). He states that if Christ is not risen, our faith is futile, we are not forgiven, but still in our sins. If Christ is not alive, we are to be pitied because without the Resurrection our hope in Christ does not exceed the boundaries of our life here on earth (1 Corinthians 15:17–19).

But believers are not to be pitied. We believe that Jesus did rise from the dead. And with that belief comes an amazing promise and assurance. The Bible tells us that the risen Jesus Christ has destroyed the

last enemy—death (1 Corinthians 15:26)! Jesus IS the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Him will live even though they die (John 11:25). This is our hope. It is a living hope promised through the mercy of God in Jesus Christ through His Resurrection from the dead. This precious hope guarantees an inheritance in heaven that will not fade away (1 Peter 1:3–5).

The Resurrection is a critical part of the gospel. Christ died for sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried and rose again according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). Everyone who has turned away from their sins in repentance and faith and turned to the risen Jesus Christ for forgiveness will have the hope of eternal life. Jesus alone is the Savior, the Redeemer, the Lord. He alone is life and brings life. He is risen! He is alive! And because He lives, we who are in Christ, will live also (John 14:19).

The wonder of the Resurrection brings to mind a hymn written in 1757 by Christian F. Gellers:

Jesus lives, and so shall I. Death! thy sting is gone forever.
He who deigned for me to die, lives, the bands of death to sever.
He shall raise me with the just: Jesus is my hope and trust.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in history. The Apostle Paul always included the Resurrection as a vital part of the gospel he had preached (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). It is a doctrine that brings hope and joy. Let's look at some of the reasons for that.

First, the Resurrection of Jesus provides indisputable evidence that He is who He claimed to be—the Son of God, God in the flesh. Paul affirmed that Christ was “declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

Second, the Resurrection not only validated Jesus's claim to Deity but also proved His teachings to be true. He claimed many times that He would be raised on the third day (John 2:19–21; Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34). And His Resurrection confirmed what He said to be true.

Third, the Resurrection validated Jesus's sacrificial death. Jesus died for sinners, and His Resurrection and victory over death shows that God accepted the sacrifice as payment in full.

As mentioned above, the Apostle Paul clearly understood the significance of Christ's bodily Resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul gives six devastating consequences that would occur if Christ was not raised bodily from the grave: 1) preaching Christ would be pointless (v. 14); 2) our faith in Christ would be empty (v. 14); 3) all those who have testified to the Resurrection would be liars (v. 15); 4) no one would be redeemed from sin (v. 17); 5) all who had died would have perished because they would have died in their sins (v.18); and 6) Christians would be the most pitiable people on the earth (v. 19).

Fourth, Jesus's Resurrection proves that physical death is not the end of human existence. It points forward to the resurrection of human beings, which is a core doctrine of the Christian faith. God, who gives life to all things (1 Timothy 6:13), has the power to resurrect the human body. Christ's triumph over the grave is God's pledge to us that we, too, shall be raised, as the Apostle Paul stated:

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:20–23).

Fifth, the Resurrection tells the world that the kingdom of God is ruled by a living Sovereign who has accomplished redemption, not through the works of men, but through the gift of grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Unlike all other religions, Christianity alone is led by one who has defeated death and who promises that His followers will do the same. The founders of all other religions are in the grave; they are dead and gone. Christ alone is alive! As the risen Savior, about 60 years after His death, said to the Apostle John, "I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen" (Revelation 1:17–18).

Jesus Christ came to make a way for sinners to get to heaven. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice—to make atonement for the sins of all believers (2 Corin-

thians 5:21). How do we know His sacrifice was sufficient? Because of the mystery of the Resurrection. God raised Him from the grave and seated Him at His right hand (Romans 8:34)! Believers have been justified in the eyes of God because our Savior is alive! And God assures us in His Word that those He [Jesus] justified, these He also glorified (Romans 8:30).

The future resurrection of believers is our blessed hope. Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose on the third day according to the Scriptures. This is something we are to celebrate—not just once a year, but every day! Believers are born again to a living hope through His Resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). Because He lives, all believers will also live (John 14:19). The will of God the Father is accomplished. Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life. And God will raise them up on the last day (John 6:40).

Because Jesus is alive, we can be confident that He will come again to receive His children to Himself (John 14:3)! And what a glorious day that will be! The dead in Christ will be raised up, and those who remain and are alive at His coming will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52). All because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Risen Lord, I praise you! Because you live, I can live, too! Help me rejoice in that fact every day—not just on Easter. Like the women who first saw the empty tomb and worshipped at your feet, your Resurrection fills my heart with awe and joy. Their eyes were opened to who you are, to your love and power and deity. Because of your Resurrection, we can live with hope and joy every day. Open the eyes of my students to the living hope available to them through Jesus Christ and the truth of the gospel.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



The Resurrection Class Notes

MATERIALS

- The Resurrection Class Notes for each student
- The Resurrection Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils or pens

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We will finish them during the class.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will talk about what happened on the morning of the third day after Jesus's Crucifixion and what it means to us.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 4 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus's last words from the Cross were, "It is finished." He was obedient to God's plan—even to death. Through Jesus's death God showed His love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus took God's wrath for sins He did not commit so that everyone who would ever believe in Him would be saved and receive Jesus's righteousness.

But there was still more to come! And we are going to read about that today. This is what happened after Jesus died and was buried.

Turn to Matthew 28:1–10. Let's read. *Choose students to read the verses.*

➤ Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Look carefully in your Bibles to answer these questions.

Observe the Text

- ? **Mary Magdalene and another Mary were headed somewhere. Where were they going?** *Matthew 28:1. To the tomb.*
- ? **What time of day was it?** *Matthew 28:1. Dawn. Morning.*
- ? **What does the Bible say happened that morning? It is in Matthew 28:2. A great earthquake!**
- ? **An earthquake had happened. What caused the earthquake?** *Matthew 28:2. An angel of the Lord came from heaven.*
- ? **An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. What did the angel do at the tomb?** *Matthew 28:2. Rolled the stone away.*
- ? **And where was the angel sitting when the women saw him?** *Matthew 28:2. On the rock that had been moved away from the tomb.*
- ? **How does the Bible describe this angel?** *Matthew 28:3. His countenance was like lightning. His clothing as white as snow.*

What a morning—an earthquake, the stone rolled away, and an angel with a face like lightning and with bright clothing!

- ? **There had been guards at the tomb. What happened to the guards who were at the tomb?** *Matthew 28:4. They shook with fear and became like dead men.*

The guards were very afraid of what they had seen. And it seems they may have passed out! The Bible says they were like dead men! After all, they had seen a very bright angel from heaven! The stone was moved away from the tomb. And surely they felt the earthquake!

- ? **As the women came to the tomb they saw the angel sitting on the stone. They must have seemed afraid. What did the angel of the Lord say to the women?** *Matthew 28:5. Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus.*
- ? **Where was Jesus? What did the angel tell them! It is in Matthew 28:6. He is not here; for He is risen!**

Then the angel took the women into the tomb to see where Jesus had been—and He was no longer there!

- ? **In Matthew 28:7 the angel told the women to go and tell someone what they had seen. Who were they to tell?** *Tell the disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead.*
- ? **And what did the women do?** *Matthew 28:8. They went out quickly to tell the disciples.*
- ? **How were the women feeling about all of this? It's in Matthew 28:8. They were afraid and joyful!**

They had just seen an angel. There had been an earthquake! They saw the stone rolled away from the tomb. Wow! I supposed I would be a bit afraid, too! And yet I understand why they were very joyful that Jesus was not there—He was no longer dead; He had risen!

- ? As if that wasn't enough excitement for the women, who did they see as they left the tomb? It is in Matthew 28:9. *Jesus!*
- ? Yes, they saw Jesus. What did He say to them? *Matthew 28:9. Rejoice!*
- ? And what else did He say in Matthew 28:10? *Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples.*

Discover the Truth

These women had to be amazed! An angel, the empty tomb—and then Jesus Himself! He was risen! He was NOT dead! And He talked to them. They went and told the disciples what they had heard and seen. What a glorious morning!

- ? Several things happened on this Resurrection morning! Let's review what we just talked about. We'll fill in numbers 1–9 on your **class notes**. *Call on students to read the statements with the correct words in them. Have students complete each statement.*



- Have individual students read and complete the nine statements on the class notes. Have the class complete each point as it is read.

READ THE WORD

We've looked at what happened the morning Jesus rose from the dead. Now I want to show you why those events are so important. The Bible says the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is glorious, but why? Why do we celebrate it? What does it have to do with us? We can find those answers in God's Word.

The Gospel of John is a good starting point. Let's read John 14:19. It will help answer our question. Jesus said this to His disciples before He died. But when He said it, He knew that He would also rise from the grave and live.

Let's read it. John 14:19. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 14:19

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. Let's study that verse for answers about why the Resurrection is so important.

Observe the Text

- ? What was Jesus talking about when He told His disciples that the world would not see Him in a little while? What was about to happen to Him? *He would die on the Cross.*
- ? He was leaving them. He would be killed on the Cross. But who would His disciples see again? *They would see Jesus again.*

John 11:25–26

- ? Then what did Jesus say—at the end of John 14:19? *Because I live you also will live!*
Jesus knew that He would soon die. But He also knew He would rise from the dead. And He told His disciples that He would live! And because He lives, they will live also!
- ? Let's go back to the class notes. Will someone read #10 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Die, rise. Have students complete #10.*
- ? What was Jesus saying? It could have been a little confusing. But in John 11:25–26 He makes it clear. Will someone read that for us? *Assign a reader.*
- ? This is what Jesus told Martha just before He raised Lazarus from the dead. Look closely at verse 25. What did He say He was? *The resurrection and the life.*
- ? And what did Jesus say would happen to people who die and believe in Him? *John 11:25. They would live.*
- ? Will someone read #11? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Lives, live. Have students complete #11.*
- ? And look in John 11:26. What did Jesus say about people who live and believe in Him, what did Jesus promise? *They will never die!*
Jesus said He was the resurrection and life. He was talking about rising from the grave. And because He rose from the grave, we can know for certain He is alive. Whoever believes in Him will never die!
- ? What does Jesus mean? How can someone never die? *Allow discussion.*
Jesus is promising eternal life! Believers will have life long after their life on earth is over. They will have eternal life in heaven with Jesus!
- ? Will someone read #12 for us now? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Life, believes. Have students complete #12.*
- ? Now will someone read #13? How would you complete that sentence? *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #13.*
The Resurrection assures us that if we believe in Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior, we will not really die. Our life on earth will be over, but we will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven. This is great news!
- ? Turn to 1 Peter 1:3. Will someone read that? This is another verse that tells us what good news the Resurrection is to everyone who believes. *1 Peter 1:3. Assign a reader.*
- ? Who is this verse about? *The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ? Our God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ has given us something according to His abundant mercy. What has God given believers? *A living hope!*

1 Peter 1:3

? Why do we have a living hope if we believe in Jesus? Where does this living hope come from? Look again in 1 Peter 1:3. *From the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!*

Discover the Truth

Yes. We have a living hope because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! The Resurrection of Jesus is such good news! He IS the resurrection and the life. Jesus promises believers that even though they die in the body they will have eternal life in heaven. Because He lives—because He rose from the grave—we can live also!

But this promise is only for sinners who repent and believe in Jesus. We cannot get to heaven—we cannot have this living hope—if our sins are not forgiven. And we can only be forgiven by repenting of our sins—turning from them—and believing in Jesus, in His death on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead.



► If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



Truth Be Told Review Game

MATERIALS

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Truth Be Told Number Cards (or game spinner or dice)
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide your class into teams. Teams will take turns drawing a Truth Be Told Question Card. Team members will take turns answering the questions. They will quickly determine an answer and give it. If they are correct, they will draw a Truth Be Told Number Card and move that number of spaces on the game board. As play proceeds, follow the directions on the game board. Alternate between teams as long as time permits.

We are going to review now by playing “Truth Be Told.” I’ll put you into teams. Teams will take turns picking a question card

and answering the question. If the answer is correct, you will draw a number card and move your game piece that many spaces. All directions on the board must be followed. Place used cards underneath the stacks.

Answers to the questions are provided on the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key on the Resource DVD-ROM.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This game was a fun review. *Congratulate the winning team.*

On Resurrection morning the angel rolled the stone away from Jesus’s grave. The women saw an angel and an empty tomb. Then they saw and spoke to Jesus. He was alive! Jesus had risen from the grave! That miracle gives us a glorious hope. Someday we can live forever with God. New and everlasting life is for all who believe in Jesus, repent of their sin, and trust Him as Lord!





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today we heard about what happened at Jesus's tomb on the third day after His death. We know it as Easter or Resurrection Sunday! The women went early in the morning to Jesus's tomb and had an unexpected surprise. The tomb was empty, and the angel told them that Jesus had risen. They left quickly to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive! He wasn't dead. He was alive!

The Resurrection of Jesus is great news! It was certainly great for Jesus's friends to see Him again after the Crucifixion. But more than that, it's great news because it gives all who believe and trust in Jesus for salvation a living hope of eternal life.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The hope Jesus brings is not just about what will happen when you die. It's a hope that can help us live our lives differently every day. Life can be hard. Pets get lost or sick. Friends betray us. We get bad grades. Parents fight. Someone close to us loses a job. People we love get sick and die. This world is full of disappointments and hardship.

Things in the world and our life can make us feel hopeless, sad, or discouraged. But that is what is so wonderful about knowing Jesus and trusting Him as our Savior. Jesus gives us hope in something that is so much better than the world. Jesus gives us hope in a wonderful eternity with Him!



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God who is the all-powerful, life giving, God who provides hope today through Jesus.
- Ask God to help us lift our eyes off of our difficult situations and see the living hope that Christ offers us every day.