



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

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. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher.



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
- Pencils



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 Class Notes 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.

- 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 REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Poster



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.



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

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.

The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will be filling in the blanks on our class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We will do them together during the class.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will talk about something that happened on the morning of the third day after Jesus died and what it means to us!



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 4 Lesson Theme Poster. We talked about how Jesus died on the Cross.

- ? What were Jesus's last words from the Cross? Do you remember what He said? *"It is finished."*
- ? That's right. What was finished? *His mission.*

Yes. Jesus came to earth for a purpose. He had a job to do, or a mission. He knew God had a plan and He obeyed it—even to death. God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to die. Remember, Jesus took God’s wrath for sins He did not commit so everyone who believes in Him will be saved from God’s wrath. He made the way for sinners to be forgiven of their sins!

But there was still more to come! Today we’re going to read about the most exciting day in history! It happened after Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. We’ll start with Matthew 28:1. I’ll read the first verse. Listen carefully now! *Read Matthew 28:1 with enthusiasm.*

Matthew 28:1

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. Now let’s think about what God’s Word says.

This verse says that it was the day after the Sabbath. So, that means it’s the third day after Jesus died on the Cross.

Observe the Text

? Mary Magdalene and another Mary were headed somewhere. Where were they going? *Re-read Matthew 28:1. To the tomb.*

? What time of day was it? *Dawn. Early morning.*

Something happened after that! Listen carefully! *Read Matthew 28:2.*

? What does the Bible say happened that morning? *A great earthquake!*

? What caused the earthquake? *Re-read Matthew 28:2. An angel of the Lord came from heaven.*

? Right! An angel came from heaven. What did the angel do at the tomb? *Matthew 28:2. Rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb.*

? And where was the angel sitting when the women saw him? *Re-read Matthew 28:2b. On the stone that had been moved away from the tomb.*

Listen to this! The Bible tells us what the angel looked like! Listen carefully. *Read Matthew 28:3. Emphasizing “His countenance was like lightning and his clothing as white as snow.”*

Wow! Have you ever seen lightning in the sky during a storm? How bright is it? It’s super-bright, isn’t it? And how about snow when it first comes down? It’s very white and bright, too. Can you imagine what this angel looked like?

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

Now there were guards at the tomb. Let’s read about what happened to them. *Read Matthew 28:4.*

? What happened to the guards who were at the tomb? *They shook with fear and became like dead men.*

Matthew 28:2

Matthew 28:3

Matthew 28:4

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

As the women came to the tomb they saw the angel sitting on the stone. The women must have looked afraid. Listen to what the angel said to the women. *Read Matthew 28:5–6.*

Matthew 28:5–6

- ? 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! *Re-read Matthew 28:6. He is not here; for He is risen!*

Jesus was risen! And the angel took the women into the tomb to see where Jesus had been—and He was gone!

Now, I'm going to read what the angel said next. *Read Matthew 28:7 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Matthew 28:7–8

- ? The angel told the women to go and tell someone what they had seen. Who were they supposed to tell? *The disciples.*
- ? And what did the women do? *Re-read Matthew 28:8. They went out quickly. They ran to tell the disciples.*
- ? How were the women feeling about all of this? *Re-read Matthew 28:8. They were afraid and joyful!*

There had been a great earthquake! Then they saw an angel! And the huge stone was rolled away from the tomb. Wow! I think I would be afraid, too! But at the same time, they were very joyful because Jesus was not there—the tomb was empty now.

- ? What did it mean that Jesus was not there? What happened to Him? What did the angel tell them? *Jesus had risen from the dead!*
- ? How exciting! But we're not finished yet! Listen to this. *Read Matthew 28:9–10 enthusiastically.*
- ? Who did the women see as they left the tomb? *Matthew 28:9. Jesus!*
- ? Yes, they saw Jesus. He was alive again! What did He say to them? *Matthew 28:9. Rejoice!*
- ? And what else did He say? *Re-read Matthew 28:10. Do not be afraid. Go and tell My disciples.*

Matthew 28:9–10

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 anymore! And He talked to them. They went and told the disciples what they had heard and seen. What an awesome morning! Jesus was alive!

► Have individual students read and complete the first four statements on the class notes. Have the class complete each point as they are read.

John 14:19

- ? Several things happened on this Resurrection morning! Let's review what we just talked about. We'll fill in #1–4 on your class notes. *Call on students to read the statements, and write the letter of the correct picture in the box. Have students complete each statement.*



READ THE WORD

We've looked at what happened that morning when Jesus rose from the dead. But why should it matter to us? I want to show you why those things that happened are so important. Let's see what God's Word says about it.

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 dead and live again. Let's read it. *Read John 14:19.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. I am going to ask some questions. We want to find out why the Resurrection, when Jesus rose from the grave, is so important.

Observe the Text

- ? Jesus said this before He died. 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? *Re-read John 14:19. They would see Jesus again.*
- ? Then what did Jesus say—at the end of the verse? Listen again. *Re-read John 14:19b. Because I live, you will live also.*

Jesus knew that He would die soon. But He also knew He would rise from the dead. And He told His disciples that He would live again! And then He said because He lives, they will live also!

- ? Let's go back to the class notes. Will someone read #5 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Dead. Have students complete #5.*
- ? Good. Now look at #6. Who will read that one? What did Jesus say? *Assign a reader. Disciples. Have students complete #6.*

OK. Now we're going to look again in the book of John. Remember when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead? Jesus was talking to Martha, a sister of Lazarus. And this is what Jesus said to her! *Read John 11:25.*

John 11:25

- ? What did Jesus say He was? *John 11:25. The resurrection and the life.*
- ? What does the word resurrection mean? *Allow discussion. To rise from the dead.*
- ? And what did Jesus say would happen to people who believe in Him when they die? *Re-read John 11:25b. They would live.*
- ? What does Jesus mean? How can someone live even though they die? What does Jesus promise for those who believe in Him? *Allow discussion. Eternal life.*

Jesus promises eternal life! Everyone's life on earth will end someday. But those who believe in Jesus and trust Him as their Savior will live long after their life on earth is done. They will live in heaven with Jesus forever!

Because Jesus rose from the dead, He will give eternal life to those who believe in Him, the Son of God. Believers will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven even after their life on earth is over. What great news!

- ? Have you ever hoped for something really special? *Allow discussion.*

We often hope for things that will make us happy like a special gift on Christmas morning or a super vacation or fun time with our family. But the Bible talks about a special kind of hope that does much more than make us happy for a while. The Apostle Peter wrote about this hope that believers have in Jesus. He called it a "living hope." And the reason believers can have this hope is because Jesus rose from the dead. That's why Jesus's Resurrection is so awesome! Because Jesus lives, those who trust Him as their Savior will live with Him in heaven!

Discover the Truth

Eternal life in heaven forever gives all believers this living hope. We can have this hope because of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead! The Resurrection of Jesus is such good news! He IS the resurrection and the life. Jesus promises believers that even though their body may die, they will have eternal life in heaven. Because Jesus lives—because He rose from the dead—we can live also!

Remember this promise of a living hope 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 away from them—and believing in Jesus, in His death on the Cross AND His Resurrection from the dead.



- If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



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 other means to determine spaces to be moved for correct answers)
- 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

On that special Sunday 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 living hope. Someday we can live forever with God. New and everlasting life is for all who repent of their sin, believe in Jesus, and trust Him!





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

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.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Memory Verse Poster, point to each word as you say it and have the students repeat.

After the review, divide the entire class into two groups. You can do boys and girls to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, oldest or youngest in the family, etc. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action— sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will “echo” what you say and do as you continue through the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.

We’re going to practice our memory verse. I’m going to point to the words on the poster, and you repeat after me. *After reviewing from the poster move on to the echoing game.*

Now, we’re going to play our echoing game. Let’s divide the class into two groups. I want Group 1 to repeat what I say and do, then Group 2 will echo it until we are all the way through our verse. Follow my actions and repeat my words as we go! Stand up and get ready now.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The word *gospel* means “good news.” What good news did we talk about today that we can share with others? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus knew all about the plan for Him to die. But He also knew He would rise from the dead. And because Jesus is alive, He promises that those who believe will have eternal life with Him. They have a living hope.

Jesus wants us to take this message, the gospel, to others all around the world.

Let’s say the verse together one more time.
Repeat verse together.



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 ran quickly to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive! He wasn’t dead anymore. He was alive again!

The Resurrection of Jesus is such great news! It was certainly great for Jesus’s friends to see Him again after His death. But more than that, it’s

great news because it gives all who believe and trust in Jesus the 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 are mean to us. We get bad grades. Parents fight. People lose their jobs. People we love get sick and die. Because of sin, this world is full of disappointments and hard times.

Things in the world and in our lives can make us feel hopeless, sad, or discouraged. But that is what is so wonderful about knowing Jesus and trusting Him as our Savior from sin. Jesus gives us hope in something that is so much better than this world. Jesus gives us "living hope" of a wonderful, eternal life with Him in heaven!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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 troubles in this world and see the "living hope" that Christ offers us every day.