



The Son of Man Is Resurrected

Luke 23:50– 24:53.



LESSON GOAL

Students will be able to tell their friends and family about the resurrection and why it is important.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Jesus' resurrection proves that what He said and did was true.
- Sunday is called the Lord's Day because it was the day that Jesus rose from the dead.
- Jesus told the disciples to preach the gospel to all nations.

KEY VERSE

"Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem'" (Luke 24:46–47).

APPLICATION

- Praise God as the disciples did after the resurrection.
- Trust that Jesus will come again as He said because of the resurrection.
- Repent and tell others about the forgiveness of sin that comes through repentance.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



4 Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

The resurrection is the climax of the Bible and the heart of the gospel (Rom. 10:9–10; 1 Cor. 15:1–8). If Jesus did not rise from the dead, there is no good news. Christian teaching is in vain, the apostles were false witnesses, and our faith is worthless. We are still in our sins, all believers who died are lost, and Christians are to be most pitied of all men (1 Cor. 15:14–19). But since the resurrection did take place, Jesus is proved to be Lord and God. All in Christ will also be raised, and death is abolished and deprived of its sting. Believers will receive glorified, imperishable bodies, and God will lead us in victory through Christ (15:20–26; 51–57). It is not just Christ’s death that was necessary; we also need the perfect life He lived for us (imputed righteousness), His resurrection for us, and His current place at the right hand of God as our ever-living Intercessor and Mediator. The other Gospels give additional details of the resurrection narrative, so Matthew 28, Mark 16, and John 20 should be consulted and compared to gain a full picture of the events.

Christ’s Burial (Luke 23:50–56)

Joseph of Arimathea was a rich, prominent member of the Sanhedrin and also a kingdom-expecting disciple of Christ (Matt. 27:57; Mark 15:43). Isaiah 53:9 had prophesied of the Messiah that “they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death.” This is yet another example of every detail of prophecy being fulfilled. The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of Israel, and it was composed of 71 members led by the high priest. Luke is the only Gospel writer who mentions that that Joseph did not vote against Christ. However, John points out that he was “a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews” (John 19:38). John’s Gospel also points out that Nicodemus, a prominent Pharisee and ruler of the Jews (see John 3), was involved and also had earlier become Christ’s follower (John 7:50). Both Joseph and Nicodemus risked their reputations and possibly their lives to give their Master a costly and honorable burial. The Galilean women may not have been familiar with these Judean leaders and may have associated them with Christ’s killers, so they purchased and prepared spices to anoint and prepare the body themselves. Jews did not embalm but used perfumes when they could afford it, primarily to counteract putrefaction. As law-abiding, faithful Jews, sundown Friday meant they must rest on the Sabbath, so they delayed their plans until the morning after the Sabbath.

Christ’s Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1–12)

Matthew and Mark also each point out the faithfulness of these women when the male disciples had deserted Christ, and they became the first eyewitnesses of the

resurrection and the heroines of the story. This is one of many evidences of the objective truthfulness of Scripture in contrast to other ancient writings, which would not portray women in a positive light. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, Mary the mother of James, and other ladies came to finish anointing the body for burial (Luke 24:11; cf. Mark 16:1). Even the most faithful did not expect a resurrection. Matthew mentions one of the angels sitting on the stone, Mark mentions an angel who looked like a man inside the tomb, and Luke and John mention both of them. The different accounts give different details but are complementary, not contradictory. The rolled-away stone was not to let Christ out (since the risen Lord could walk through walls). Rather, it was to show that He was already gone, and it is a tremendous testimony of the resurrection. All false theories of the resurrection cannot account for the empty tomb or other details given in the Gospels. Putting the four Gospels together produces this account: There was an earthquake, and the guards were so afraid of the angels that they became like dead men and ran away, only to be paid off by the Jews to stay silent. The same angels comforted the fearful women with the greatest news possible: "He is risen!" The angels reminded the women that Jesus had told them in Galilee that He must suffer and be crucified at the hands of sinners but would rise on the third day. The women ran back to the disciples and told them the news. Most did not believe, but Peter and John raced to the tomb to find it empty. Neither disciple fully understood the resurrection prophecies, and they returned to their homes confused. Mary Magdalene stayed behind at the tomb, believing someone had taken the body, and she was the first person to whom the resurrected Lord appeared. He also appeared to the other women who worshiped Him, and He then told them that He would meet the disciples in Galilee. The MacArthur Study Bible is recommended for further reading and reconciling the chronology of the various accounts.

The Gospels make it very clear that Jesus rose on Sunday, "the first day of the week," and this is why Christians meet on Sundays rather than on the Jewish Sabbath. It is called the "Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10) because it celebrates the day our Lord was resurrected, the centerpiece and foundation of Christianity. A pattern seems to develop: Jesus first appeared on a Sunday and then reappeared the following Sunday; the church was born on a Sunday, Pentecost (Acts 2); and the early church met on Sunday (Acts 20:7) and gave offerings on that day (1 Cor. 16:2). Every Lord's Day should be a reminder and celebration of this greatest event in history, the resurrection of our Lord.

Christ's Appearances (Luke 24:13–43)

The exact location of Emmaus is uncertain, but tradition identifies it as a town called Kubeibeh, seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. The distance of the travel shows that Christ's resurrection involved a restored and healed body, as no man could have walked that far on feet lacerated by nails. Jesus apparently was divinely disguised (Luke 24:16) as He joined these disciples, who evidently were not any of the eleven. One named Cleopas gave an emotional representation of the disciples; he spoke of "Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet," suggesting doubts about His deity, and His reported resurrection. Verse 21 shows that these men's hopes of a Redeemer were disappointed. The Jewish view of the Messiah saw Him as only a kingdom ruler and ignored or disbelieved any references to His suffering, death, and resurrection (24:21). Since even the disciples struggled with the theology of a suffering Savior, it is no surprise to see what a stumbling block the cross was to Jews who were not His followers.

Jesus lovingly rebuked their foolishness and their hearts' slowness to believe all that the prophets had spoken of. He could have instantly proved the resurrection by His hands and feet, but He first proved that the Jewish Scriptures themselves

required the Messiah's suffering, death, and resurrection. Perhaps Jesus began with Genesis 3:15, the first promise of the Redeemer, and traced it through passages such as Genesis 22 (Abraham offering his beloved son on the altar where the lamb became the substitute). "Beginning at Moses" undoubtedly included the Passover, sacrificial system, Day of Atonement, serpent in the wilderness, etc., and led to passages such as Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 (see also Acts 2:25–36). The men's hearts burned within them, but it was only later, while breaking bread, that they were allowed to recognize Jesus before He vanished.

Christ's Appearance to the Disciples (Luke 24:33–43)

The men rushed to tell the eleven apostles the exciting news, and they found out that Simon Peter also has seen the Lord. As they rejoiced together and exchanged stories, Jesus Himself reappeared in their midst! Although He was able to walk through walls, the text also shows that the resurrection was literal and physical, and Jesus was not just a ghost or vision. His body still had scars and was "flesh and blood," it could be touched, and what overcame their disbelief was watching Him eat food, conclusive proof that He had physically been raised. What a phenomenal moment it must have been!

Christ's Commission and Ascension (Luke 24:44–53)

The last words a loved one leaves for you are very important, and even more important was our beloved Lord's farewell address, which Luke concludes with. The formula of Law, Prophets, and Psalms (shorthand for poetic books) in verse 44 shows that Jesus affirmed the entire Old Testament and that every section was about Him and would be fulfilled in Him. (See also Luke 24:27—"all the prophets.") Verse 31 says their eyes were opened to recognize Jesus, and verse 45 says their minds were opened by Christ to understand the Scriptures, undoubtedly many of the same passages expounded on the way to Emmaus. We also need divine enlightenment and reliance on the Lord to understand and appreciate His Scriptures today (Psalm 119:18). Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit later would come and empower them for their task as witnesses, as Luke records in Acts. Matthew records the Great Commission as "Go...and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing...teaching." Mark says that Jesus added "preach the gospel to every creature" (16:15), and Luke gives the content of that gospel: "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations." Any evangelism or gospel proclamation that does not call for repentance or discipleship falls short of our Lord's command, which the record of the early church shows that the apostles obeyed (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 13:38; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20). As Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles no longer were sad, but they worshiped Christ, had great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. Although these events occurred many years ago, enthusiasm and evangelism should be true of us today.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What did Jesus ask the disciples to do as He went to pray to His Father?
Jesus asked the disciples to pray so that they would not enter temptation.

What did Jesus ask the Father when He prayed?
He asked if there was any way that He might be able to obey God without having to suffer and die. But He also said that it was not His desire but the will of the Father that He would obey.

What did Jesus find when He returned to the disciples?
He found them asleep. He again told them to get up and pray that they would not enter temptation.

After Jesus woke the disciples, who entered the garden?
Judas, who was followed by a group of people. The group was made up of religious leaders, temple officers, elders, scribes, servants, Sanhedrin representatives, Pharisees, and a Roman cohort or battalion (about 600 soldiers).

How did Judas show the religious leaders which man was Jesus?
Judas went up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek.

Where did the religious leaders take Jesus after leaving the garden?
They took Him before the high priest and then to Pilate to be tried.

Who was crucified with Jesus?
Beside Jesus, on His left and right, were two criminals.

What happened before and as Jesus was dying?
From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over the land. The veil in the temple tore from top to bottom. Just before Jesus died, He cried, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

How did the Jewish leaders react to Jesus’ death?
They believed that they had conquered Jesus by putting Him to death.



Tomb

People usually were not buried in tombs. More often, they were put in a grave in the ground. A tomb was a place not in the ground, but in a cave. Some tombs were made from piled rocks or cut stones, and others were chiseled from a solid rock. To illustrate this for the students, create a tomb from a large cardboard box. The



sides could be drawn on to look like rocks, and a large cardboard circle could be used to roll in front of the door.

Unique

Ask the students what makes them unique. Do they have any physical things that make them different from other people? Do they have any scars that remind them of past injuries? Tell the students that today they will learn about a man who had scars that proved He was who He said He was. Jesus' scars are a testimony to what He did on the cross. After Jesus rose from the dead, at first His disciples did not believe it was Him. But once they saw His scars, they knew it really was Him.



Last Words

A person's last words are important. If people know it is the last time they will be together, they say things that are the most important to them. What would you say if today was your last day with your brother or sister because he or she was going away on a long trip? What if it was your last day to tell your best friend something? In today's lesson we will learn about what some of Jesus' last words were before He ascended to His Father in heaven. These were important not only for His disciples who watched Him leave, but also for us today.



5

Testimony

To teach the students the concept of a witness and testimony, choose one student to go into the hallway and look at a picture. After he returns to the room, he should describe the picture without telling what it is. The other students should try to figure out what the picture is based on the student's description. This could lead into a discussion about the people who were witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Today is a very special day—Easter Sunday! In our Bible lesson today, we will learn what Easter is all about.

Let's begin where we left off last week. Jesus was on the cross, having forgiven the thief who was next to Him. After Jesus died, a righteous man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate, the judge, and asked if he could have Jesus' body. He wanted to give Jesus a good burial. Pilate said that Joseph could take Jesus' body. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and buried Him in a tomb that was cut from the rock. It probably was a cave with a very large stone for the door. It was a new tomb; no one ever had been put in it before. Joseph needed to

put Jesus in the tomb quickly because the next day was the Sabbath, and the Jews could not work on the Sabbath because it was the day to rest and worship. Now as Joseph was placing Jesus in the tomb, there were some women who had watched and followed him to that place. They saw where Jesus' body was placed, and they went home to prepare some good-smelling spices and perfumes to bring back to put on Jesus. They could not come the next day because it was the Sabbath, and they had to stay home to rest and worship according to the commandments they were required to keep. So early the next morning, at dawn, when the sun was just coming up, the women came to the tomb with their spices and perfumes to anoint Jesus' body. But something very strange had happened. When they arrived at the tomb, they saw that the large, heavy stone that had been over the doorway was rolled away. When they looked into the tomb, there was no one there. Jesus was gone! The Bible tells us that the women "were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth" (Luke 24:5), but another surprising thing happened. While the women were there, two men in bright clothes stood near them. While they were standing there crying and confused, these men asked a question: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen." The angels continued to talk to the women and reminded them of what Jesus had told them before He died. He had said that He would be given over to sinful men. The angels reminded the women that Jesus told them all this would happen; once again, everything had happened just as Jesus said it would. Some of the women ran from the tomb to where the 11 disciples were. They told the disciples about what they had seen, but the disciples did not believe them (Luke 24:11). John and Peter wanted to see this for themselves, so they ran to the tomb and looked around and found the linen cloth. Afterward, Peter "departed, marveling to himself at what had happened" (verse 12). Some of the other men were walking to a town about seven miles away. As they walked, they were talking about all that had happened, and while they were walking, Jesus came and walked with them. They did not realize who He was. The Bible tells us that "their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him" (Luke 24:16). They told Jesus all about what had happened and how the women had gone to the tomb and couldn't find His body. In Luke 24:24 they said, "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." Jesus patiently explained to these men about the things that Moses had said and all that the prophets had told about Him. As they traveled along, it began to get dark, and they asked Him to stay the night with them. When they sat down at supper that night, Jesus allowed them to recognize Him. This is what the Bible says: "Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them." (Luke 24:30). They suddenly recognized who He was. And then Jesus was gone. Luke 24:31 says that "He vanished from their sight." They jumped up and ran back to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples what had happened. While this was happening and they were talking, Jesus appeared in the middle of all the people. It was so shocking that they were all afraid and thought they were seeing a spirit. In Luke 24:38, Jesus said, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" They could not believe it. Jesus was really right there with them again. He asked them if they had anything to eat. They gave him some broiled fish and honeycomb, and He ate it before their eyes. Jesus really was alive again! What a marvelous thing that God had done. It was just as He had promised throughout the ages. We need to remember that all of God's words are true and faithful, and all of the promises that God has made will come true.

After He had been seen by many people, Jesus led the disciples on a walk to Bethany, where he lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was doing this, He departed from them. Mark 16:19 says, "After the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God." All the disci-

ples went back to Jerusalem blessing and praising God. They were His witnesses to the world, and today it is our job to be His witnesses to the world, too. We need to remember that all the things Jesus told His disciples would happen did happen. He told them one more thing that has not happened yet. He is coming back again! Jesus is coming to take believers to heaven. We do not know when He is coming back, but we need to be ready. The only way that you can know that you will go to heaven with Christ is if you have trusted Him as your Savior. While we wait for His return, we should be sharing the good news of God's gift of salvation. What a wonderful Savior is Jesus our Lord.



Lesson Questions

Who asked for Jesus' body after His death?

A man named Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body.

Where did Joseph take Jesus' body?

Joseph had a tomb that had never been used. He took Jesus' body, wrapped Him in a cloth, and placed Him in the tomb.

Why did Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James come to the tomb the next morning?

They came with spices to anoint Jesus' body for burial.

What did the women find when they reached the tomb?

There was an angel sitting on the stone and an angel inside the tomb. The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus' body was gone.

What did the angels tell the women when they arrived?

The angels told the women the good news that "He is risen!" Jesus had told them that He would be resurrected on the third day, and He had done as He had said.

What did the women do when they heard the news?

They ran back to tell the disciples what they had seen.

What day did Jesus rise from the dead?

Jesus rose on Sunday.

What were the last instructions that Jesus gave before returning to heaven?

Jesus told the disciples to preach the good news to all nations.

What did the disciples do after Jesus ascended into heaven?

The disciples worshiped and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They went to the temple praising and blessing God.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Taking Home a Lamb, Part 3

Directions: Before class, empty the box and set aside the lambs. Place the box back where it was. During class, at the appropriate time during the lesson, open the box and show the students that the lambs are gone. Explain that Jesus had been placed in a tomb for three days, and on Resurrection Sunday, He arose from the dead. When the women and disciples arrived to the tomb, it was empty. When explaining that Jesus showed Himself to the disciples for 40 days, give the students back their lambs to take home.



The Spread of the Gospel

To illustrate how the gospel spreads, bring to class a large, transparent container filled with water. During the lesson, discuss with the students how the gospel began in the town of Jerusalem. It was like a tiny drop in a big world. Put a few drops of food coloring in the still water. As the story progresses, the students will see the coloring spread throughout all the water. Jesus commanded the disciples to share the gospel with the entire world.

Praise and Worship

He Is Lord

I Love You, Lord

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

My God Is So Great

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children



He is Alive Forever!

The body of Jesus lay in Joseph's tomb,
(Hold head to one side with both hands underneath as though laying down.)

Not three full days when there came a "boom!",
(Thrust hands & arms outward in a big, sudden movement.)

All of a sudden there was an earthquake,
(Hold both hands out flat while moving them up and down.)

And all of the guards, they started to shake.
(Shake all over with a look of fear on your face.)

Angels came down from heaven and rolled
(Hold index finger above your head and slowly lower it.)

The stone from the tomb, and said, "Look! Behold!"
(Pretend to push something heavy from in front of you.)

"Jesus is risen, just look where He laid,
(Extend and raise one arm, then point outward.)

Go tell everyone, do not be afraid."
(Cup both hands around your mouth; shake head.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



He Is Not Here

Materials: large sheets of white paper, sheets of gray paper, materials to create flowers and trees (colored tissue paper, for example), copies of the memory verse, glue

Directions: Give the students each a sheet of white paper and other various supplies. Instruct them to create a scene that the women might have seen when they came to Jesus' tomb early in the morning. They should put the gray tomb in the middle of the page, add plants and trees, and then glue the memory verse at the bottom. (For younger students, it may be best to precut tombs, stones, plants, etc.)



Great News!

Ask the students if they have any good news they would like to share. Have they ever had such great news that they wanted to tell everyone? Allow the students to share some examples of great news they have had. Explain that Jesus gave the disciples some great news before He returned to heaven, and He asked that all Christians share that good news with others.



Spreading the Good News

Play this game like “Whisper down the Lane” or “Telephone.” Have the students sit on the floor in rows. Explain that you will whisper the good news to the first student in the row. He should whisper it to the student next to him, and so on. Whisper a simple phrase such as, “Jesus came to die for sinners.” When the good news reaches the last student in the row, he should say aloud what he heard. This can be done several times with different messages. At the end of the activity, talk to the students about how messages are spread from one person to another. Ask them what great message they can share this week, and encourage them to share the good news about Jesus Christ.

Coloring Pages

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen!” (Luke 24:5b–6a).



Hangman

Use this activity in one large group or several small groups. After reciting the memory verse as a class, draw blanks on the board—one for each letter in each word of the verse. Let the students take turns filling in the blanks.

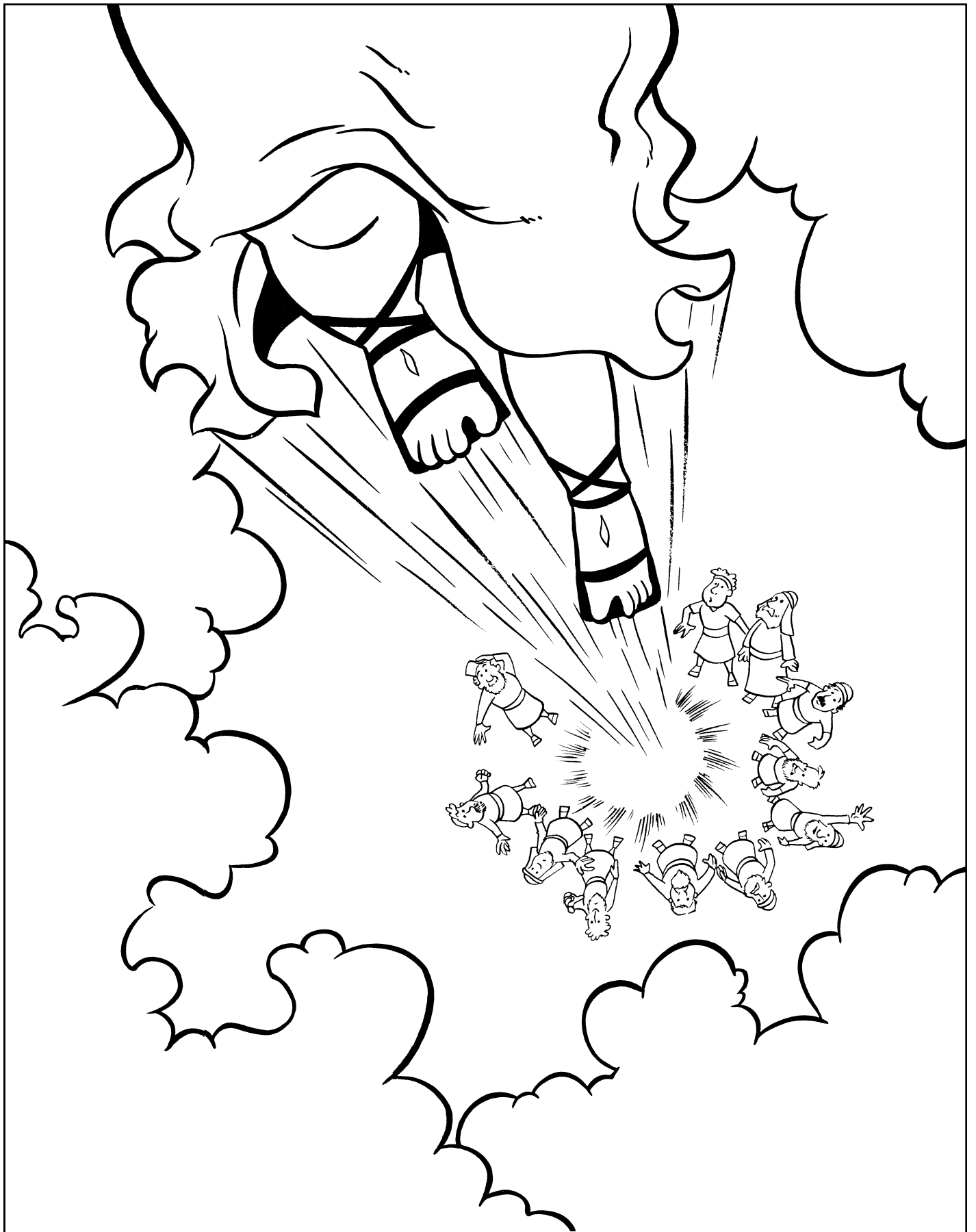


Hot Potato

Have the students sit in a circle. While music is playing, they should pass the potato around the circle. When the music stops, the person holding the potato recites the memory verse.



“Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb” (Luke 24:1–2).



“Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:51).