



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28



LESSON GOAL

Students will tell their friends and family about Jesus' resurrection.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Identify the events that happened after Jesus rose from the dead
- Evaluate the various responses to the resurrection
- Explain the importance of the resurrection
- Describe the Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples

KEY VERSE

"[Jesus] is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." —Matthew 28:6

APPLICATION

- Sing praise to the risen Savior.
- Obey Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Tell people who don't know Jesus about His death and resurrection.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

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 that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

Following the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus’ body. Joseph and Nicodemus (John 19:39) prepared His body and placed it in Joseph’s unused tomb. Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of Israel. There were 71 members, with the High Priest at the head. Joseph was one of these religious leaders who had become a disciple of Christ. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He had come to Jesus in secret to speak with Him regarding salvation, and Jesus explained to him that he must be born again, not of water but of the Spirit. The Bible indicates that Nicodemus also came to faith in Christ.

The placing of Jesus in an unused tomb fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:9, which says, “And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.” Waiting by the tomb and watching Jesus’ burial, were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James. Joseph of Arimathea rolled a stone against the opening and then went away.

The chief priests and the Pharisees wanted to make sure that Jesus’ disciples did not fabricate His resurrection, so they secured and sealed the tomb with Pilate’s permission. Roman guards were placed outside the tomb to protect it from grave-robbing disciples. Everything that was humanly possible was done to prevent the resurrection of Christ. But rather than stopping Jesus body from being stolen it provided witnesses and an even more spectacular demonstration of Christ’s resurrection.

Jesus Is Risen (Matt. 28:1–8)

Early Sunday morning, after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb to bringing spices for Jesus’ burial. As they approached the tomb there was a great earthquake and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He moved the stone that covered the tomb, then sat on top of it. The sight of this angel must have been spectacular. He is described as having a countenance like lightning and that his clothes were as white as snow. At this sight the guards who were watching over the cave shook for fear and became like dead men.

As the women arrived at the tomb they saw the angel sitting on the stone. The angel of the Lord told the women not to be afraid and to look and see that Jesus had risen. The stone had been moved not so that Jesus could leave the tomb but so that others could go in to see that He was in fact gone. The angel then told the women to go and tell the disciples what had happened. Hearing this news the women hurried back to the disciples. They were full of fear and joy because of the news that they had heard.

The power of Christ's resurrection was demonstrated with undeniable evidence. During Christ's resurrection, saints were raised from the dead. They went into Jerusalem and testified of the reality of Jesus' resurrection and gospel (Matt. 27:52–53).

Jesus Appears to the Women (Matt. 28:9–10)

As the women hurried to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus appeared to them on the road. He greeted them warmly and casually. The women recognized Him and worshiped Him at His feet. The reality of their Savior's resurrection had hit them and they could do nothing else. Jesus again repeats the angel's message that they were to give a message to the disciples to leave for Galilee and He would see them there.

These events not only are not only amazing on a physical level but they also are evidences to other important facts. It is evidence that God's Word is true. All Jesus' words were accomplished just as He predicted. It also shows that Jesus is truly the Son of God and that He controls both life and death. The resurrection is evidence that salvation is complete and that the church has been established. And finally, it is evidence that there will be a future judgment for unbelievers but that believers will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

The Soldiers' Bribery (Matt. 28:11–15)

As the women hurried to tell the disciples of Jesus' resurrection, some of the soldiers also hurried to tell the chief priests what had happened. These soldiers, which could have been as many as twelve, were placed there under Pilate's order and could have been killed for their failure to guard the tomb. The soldiers told the chief priests what had happened. All of these events would have been undeniable evidence from a group of Roman soldiers but instead of believing in Christ, the chief priests bribed the soldiers to change their story. They were told to say that it was the disciples who came and stole the body during the night. It is likely that these soldiers would have been executed at once for their failure if this news were to reach Pilate's ears. But the chief priests said that if that were to happen that they would win him over and protect their lives. The soldiers went out and did as they were instructed. The message that Jesus' body was stolen was propagated by the soldiers throughout the land among the Jews.

Even though the religious leaders had known about Jesus' claims to rise from the dead on the third day, they would not believe. Although they had heard the first hand accounts of the unbiased soldiers, they would not believe. No miracle, not even Jesus' resurrection brought these religious leaders to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Gives the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20)

After hearing the news, the disciples followed Jesus' instructions to go to Galilee to the mountain where they had been instructed. Before this final instruction of Jesus, Jesus had spoken with the disciples on several occasions. Thomas had seen the Lord (John 20:26), and after an enormous catch of fish the disciples recognized Jesus. Even after seeing Jesus, some still doubted (Matt. 28:17–18a) and others worshiped.

Before giving any instruction Jesus states, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." Jesus' time of suffering was now over. He had been completely submissive to God's will and was about to be exalted in heaven. He had absolute sovereignty over everything in heaven and on the earth. He had the power to send and to equip the disciples as they went out and spread the gospel.

Based on that authority, Jesus sent the disciples out into the world. He called them to “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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” Jesus called His disciples to evangelize, bringing unbelievers around the world to Christ and then to disciple those who would believe.

Jesus ended the Great Commission with one last encouragement, saying, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” They had nothing to fear, for Jesus, the omnipotent Savior, was with them and without His power they would have no strength in themselves to accomplish these commands. This promise of power is for the believer until Jesus returns again to judge and rule in His earthly kingdom.

Summary

After Jesus was buried it looked to the disciples that there was no hope. They had heard His promises but had not believed them. Early Sunday morning the Marys went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body. When they arrived there was an earthquake and an angel came down from heaven to open the tomb. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb were very afraid and were like dead men. The angels told the women not to fear but to see that Jesus had arisen as He had said. They instructed them to go back and tell the disciples what they had seen. On their way back the women saw Jesus. He told them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee and He would see them there. They followed Jesus’ instructions and met on the mountain. Jesus told them that all authority had been given to Him and that they were to go into all the world and share the good news with everyone. They were also to baptize and teach those who believed. Before leaving Jesus encouraged them by telling them that He would be with them to the end of the age.

Application

When a person leaves on a long trip his last words are what resound in the ears of those who remain. Christ’s last moments on earth were indelibly marked on the minds of His disciples. He instructed the believers to go, baptize, and teach. Christians are not to wait for the world to come to them but rather to go into the world, bringing the gospel and making disciples.

Jesus’ followers saw the power in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. They were given one last instruction before Jesus left earth to return to His Father in heaven. The application of Christ’s commands is just as relevant to believers today. Jesus said, “...go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” Disciples of Christ are called to share the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection with the lost of this world. They are not only to evangelize the lost but also to disciple them. Although this command may come with many trials and persecutions, believers are reminded that God will be with His children, even to the end of the age. The resurrection is the cornerstone of the gospel. It is the foundation that the believer’s faith is built.

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

Who did the people want Pilate to release, Barabbas or Jesus?
Barabbas.

What did they want Pilate to do with Jesus?
They wanted Him to be crucified.

In what ways did the soldiers mock Jesus?
They scourged Jesus with a whip, placed a crown of thorns on His head, spat at Him, and beat Him. They mocked Jesus by sarcastically calling Him the King of the Jews.

How was Jesus killed?
He was crucified on the cross.

When the people saw Jesus on the cross, what did they do?
They mocked and insulted Him.

What were the signs that accompanied Jesus' death?
The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, there was a great earthquake, rocks were split open and tombs of saints were broken open (who would later testify).

Who was in control of Jesus' death?
God.

Why did Jesus die on the cross?
Jesus died so that anyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.



Still in Your Sins

Place a small plastic tarp on the floor. Bring in a small bucket of water and put in a number of drops of black food coloring. Stir it until the water is very black. Then, put an inexpensive doll or action figure into the water. Tell the students that the black water stands for sin. We are like the doll in the water. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Each sin is worth an infinite time in hell. It takes more than just someone else dying for us. It takes someone who is good enough and great enough that he can pay for many people's sins. Jesus died for sin (Rom. 5:8). He proved that He was good enough and great enough to pay for all our sins by dying and rising again. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17. If He did not rise from the dead, we would still be in our sins, just like the doll in the bucket of black water.



Now the Good News

Tell the children that you are going to share some wonderful news with them. Play a game of telephone by whispering, “Jesus Christ is risen” into a child’s ear, and have him pass it along until the last child gets to announce the news in a regular voice. Explain that in today’s lesson, we will learn all about the good news of Jesus Christ's resurrection and how Jesus commanded us to spread the news.



Impossible for Man, Accomplished by God, Version 1

Bring various objects of different weights to class. Have your children try and lift the various objects. Some will be easy, some very difficult, and some that only a few in the class will be able to actually pick up. One object should be too heavy for any of them to be able to move. Explain that there are many things we can do and accomplish, and some people can do more than others. However, the resurrection was something so great that it could only be done by God. By raising Christ from the dead, He testified to His power, His victory over sin and death, and He gave us hope.



Impossible for Man, Accomplished by God, Version 2

Take a picture of a man and tear it into tiny pieces. Place the pieces in a plastic bag. Explain to the students that the Jews desired to destroy Jesus and so He was hung on a cross and died. Ask the children if it would be possible for any of them to put his hand in the bag and pull the picture out whole and perfect (possibly have some try to do it). But, that is exactly what God did. Have an identical, untornd picture hidden against the side of the bag. Pull this picture out, to their amazement. Explain that this is only an illusion, a trick, but that God actually raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him a new, glorified body. That is much more amazing!



Resurrection

Have the children look up 1 Corinthians 15:1–19. Ask them to read and answer these questions: Who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead? Why is the resurrection important?



Ongoing Big Book

During the resurrection lessons, create a big book with one new page a day. Project the coloring pages to the wall using an overhead projector. Trace the picture onto poster board. Have the students color the pictures and then put them into the book. Use the Big Book to review all of the lessons on Resurrection Sunday. (Note: Some copy centers can also enlarge copies onto poster board.)

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 alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

- Jesus Is Risen (Matt. 28:1–8)
- Jesus Appears to the Women (Matt. 28:9–10)
- The Soldiers’ Bribery (Matt. 28:11–15)
- Jesus Gives the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20)

Introduction

Last week, we learned that Jesus was crucified on the cross as if He were a criminal, even though He had done nothing wrong. The people of Israel did not like His message of salvation and repentance and treated Him as if He were the most wicked person who had ever lived. The people of Israel did not realize that God had planned before the world was created that Jesus would be killed, buried, and that He would rise again. God’s plan was not to leave Jesus in the grave. In today’s lesson, we will learn how Christ conquered death and atoned for man’s sin through His glorious resurrection.



Lead-off Question (LOQs)

LOQ: When did the women return to Jesus’ tomb?

Answer: Matthew 28:1 says, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” These two women, who had accompanied Jesus and His disciples as they went from place to place ministering and preaching, came to the tomb where Jesus was placed so that they could anoint His body with precious ointments. This was a common practice in those days. The reason the Bible says that it took place “after the Sabbath” is because on Saturday, when the Sabbath took place, no one was allowed to do any work. Most needed to remain at home until Sabbath was over. On Sunday morning, they came to the tomb because the Sabbath had now passed, and they were allowed to go to the tomb.

LOQ: What other events happened as the women went to the tomb?

Answer: Matthew 28:2 says, “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.” A very important event happened when an angel from God came and rolled back the stone that covered the tomb where Jesus had been laid. As the women went to the tomb, they felt a great earthquake, and they knew that something special had happened. The guards who had been placed at

the tomb were very shocked to see the angel because Matthew 28:4 says, “And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.” The guards saw that his appearance that was “like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow” (Matt. 28:3). The angel had come and done an amazing event, but he also had something amazing to tell the women who came to the tomb that day.

LOQ: What did the angel of the Lord tell the women?

Answer: The angel said in Matthew 28:5–6, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” The angel told the women that Jesus was no longer dead. Jesus had arisen from the dead just as He had promised them He would. They no longer needed to be afraid of the angel because he brought them good news. Jesus is alive! What a wonderful message that is for us to proclaim to a lost world that does not understand how important it was for Jesus to rise from dead. The angel continued telling them in Matthew 28:7, “And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” The angel told them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was now alive. They were not to delay, but they were to go to them quickly. The angel also told them that they would see Him in Galilee. So they were to run and tell the disciples the good news.

LOQ: How did the women respond to the angel’s announcement?

Answer: Matthew 28:8 says, “So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.” The women did exactly as the angel had told them to do. They went with haste to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus had arisen from the dead just as He promised them He would. They ran to the disciples with great joy.

LOQ: Who met the women as they were going to the disciples?

Answer: Matthew 28:9–10 says, “And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.’” Jesus met these women as they were running back to the disciples. When they saw Jesus, He said to them, “Rejoice!” This they did, and they worshiped Him because they knew that He had truly risen from the dead. By seeing Jesus for themselves, they definitely had no doubts. Jesus also told them the same message that the angel had given—“Go and tell the disciples the good news.” In this, they also did just as Jesus said.

Summary

When Jesus arose from the dead, the women who came to anoint His body with precious ointments felt a great earthquake. The earthquake happened because an angel had come to roll away the stone from the entry point of the tomb. When the Roman soldiers saw the angel, they were very afraid. The angel told the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was now alive. Jesus had now arisen from the dead just as He had promised them He would. As they went to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus met them and they worshiped Him. Jesus also told them to go to the disciples to go to Galilee where He would meet them.

Application

Are you happy and glad that Jesus has arisen from the dead? I know that I am! Jesus is now alive and He is sitting in heaven. He is our risen Lord who has paid the price of sin for us. Let us be like these women in the lesson today who worshiped Jesus. These women were so glad that Jesus was now alive, and they knew that He was the Lord. Do you know that Jesus is the Lord? You should.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

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



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Empty Tomb Set

Reenact the story of the resurrection. Paint several pieces of butcher paper to make a wall-size mural of a tomb. You can purchase a 4x8 ft. piece of Styrofoam at a local hardware store to make the shape of the stone that was in front of the tomb. Dress several of the children as characters, and reenact the story as you teach the Bible lesson.



A Boxed Tomb

Wrap a doll in cloth and place it in a box. Close the box and seal it with packing tape. Post a guard, either by drawing men onto the box or by using paper people or other dolls. This will help the children visualize what the chief priests and Pharisees did by making “the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.” (Matt. 27:66). Emphasize that it is impossible for the doll to get out without a miraculous display of divine power.

Praise and Worship

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

He Arose

Isn't He Wonderful

Nothing but the Blood

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 that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



What Is Your Response?

As you read the resurrection account in Matthew 28, it is fascinating to notice the different people’s responses to the event. The guards were absolutely petrified, the women were filled with fear and great joy, the chief priests tried to deny it and cover it up, some of the disciples worshiped, and some of them doubted. Try to get the children to understand that each of these people knew the facts of the resurrection, as the children now do, but each responded differently. Question them about their response and who they most emulate in the Gospel account. Explain that your prayer and desire for them is to look most like the women and disciples who feared God, rejoiced in Him, worshiped Him, and gave their lives to obeying Him.



Responses of the Resurrection

Ask the children to look through the passage on the resurrection in Matthew 28. Have them describe the reaction of the high priests, the guards, the women, and the disciples. Have them evaluate which were the best and which were the worst responses. Ask them which example they should follow and why.



Making News

Materials: large sheets of white paper, markers

Directions: Give each child a large sheet of paper. Have him fold the paper in half; then, ask him to make a newspaper announcing the good news of Jesus Christ’s resurrection. Headlines and pictures would suffice; squiggly lines can be the “articles.” Older children may enjoy trying to write a brief article or copying Scripture onto their newspapers. Encourage the children to take their handmade newspapers home and fill them up with pictures and news about Jesus.



Spread the Good News

Materials: construction paper squares, crayons, stickers, tape

Directions: Give each child a square of construction paper, and have him cut a round edge on one corner. Let him decorate one side of the paper with crayons and stickers and be sure to write, “Christ Is Risen.” Then, fold the paper into a megaphone shape and tape closed.



“Burial and Resurrection Scene”

Materials: copies of “Burial and Resurrection Scene” craft page, construction paper, scissors, glue, and crayons

Directions: Color and cut out the pieces from the “Triumphal Entry Scene” craft page and glue them to a blank piece of construction paper.



Go and Make Disciples

Tell the students that in today’s lesson, they have learned about the “The Great Commission.” Explain to them that we are told to go and make disciples of all

nations. How do we do that? (By showing people how to follow Jesus and make Him King of their lives.) We are to go—whether it is next door or to another country—and make disciples. It is not an option, but a command to all who are Christians. God has given us all gifts that we can use to help fulfill the Great Commission. Ask the students what some specific things are that they can do to share Christ.



“Jesus Conquers Death”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of this week’s lesson. It is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Small Group Activity: “New Life in Christ”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. He/she can complete the page individually, in a small group, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

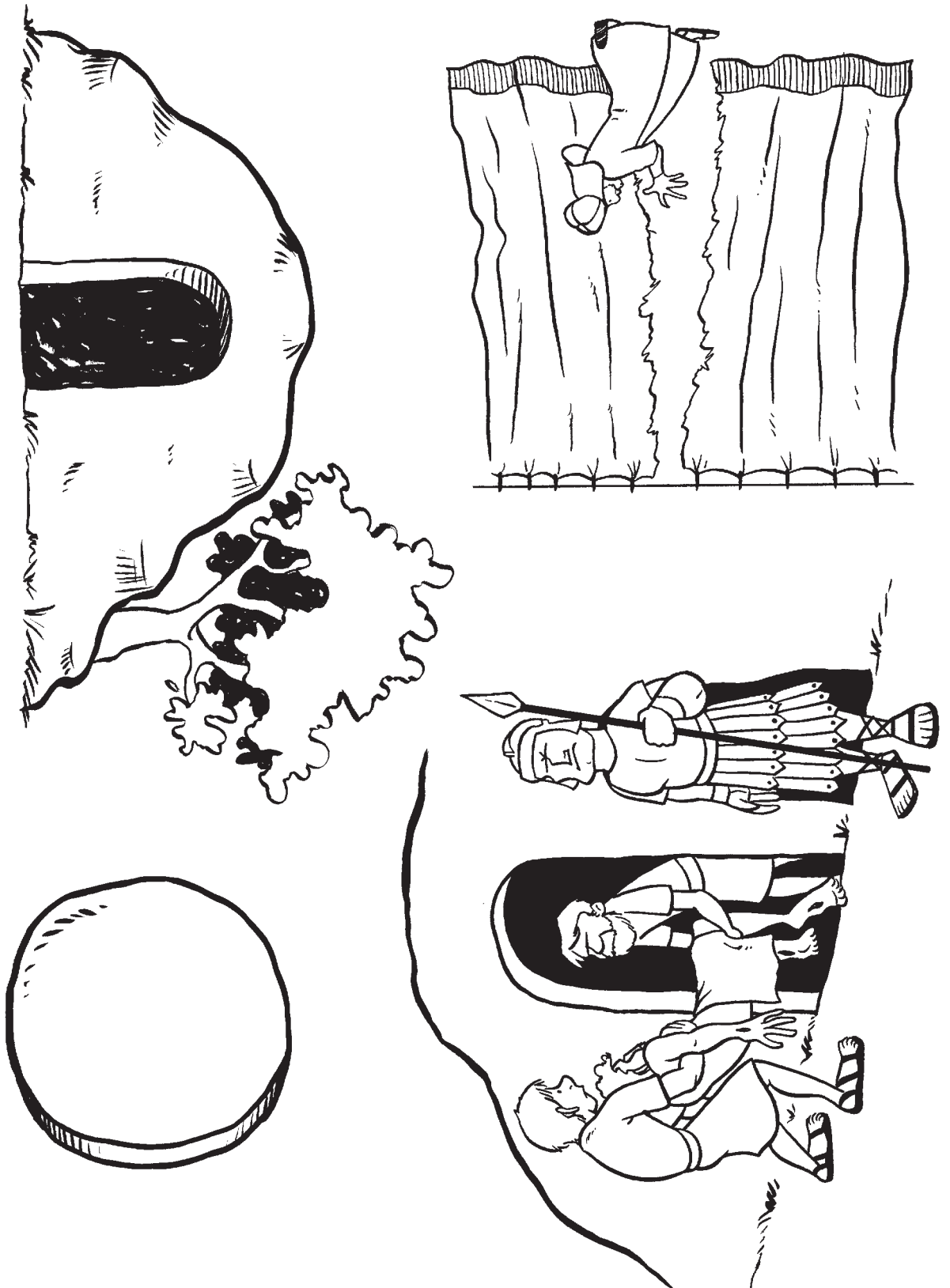
Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. He/she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



MEMORY VERSE

“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” —*Matthew 28:6*

Burial and Resurrection Scene



Jesus conquers death



Matthew 28

Name _____

1. Matthew 28:1 says _____ came to see the tomb.
2. Matthew 28:2 says, there was a great _____.
3. The angel's clothing was _____.
 - a. Blue as sky
 - b. Green as grass
 - c. White as snow.
 - d. Brown as mud
4. When the guards saw the angel, they shook with _____ and became like _____ men (Matt. 28:4).
5. In Matthew 28:6, the angel said, Jesus "is not here, He is _____."
6. Verse 8 says Mary and Mary departed from the tomb with _____.
 - a. sadness and sorrow
 - b. some food
 - c. Fear and great joy
 - d. tears and great toys
7. Who appeared to Mary and Mary as they were going to tell the disciples? _____

New Life in Christ

Have you ever noticed around Easter time that the flowers begin to bloom, the trees get new leaves, and the zoo gets newborn animals? It is a time of new life. It is also the time Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. The life God gives springtime is new, but the life He gives through Christ is eternal. This means that it does not last for a season, but forever. In the space below, draw three pictures: one of new life in spring, one of Christ's open grave, and one of yourself. Then, answer the questions at the back of the page.

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Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?

How does one receive eternal life?

How can we thank Christ for His work on the cross?

If you do not understand the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection and you would like someone to explain it to you, talk to your parents or Sunday School teacher.

**“And that He was buried, and that He rose again
the third day according to the Scriptures.”
—1 Corinthians 15:4**

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“But the angel answered and said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.’” —Matthew 28:5–6



"Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.'" —Matthew 28:10

