Lesson B3.8 - Jesus Rose Again



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Matthew 28:1-15

▶ Bible Characters: Mary Magdalene and other women, angel, guards, Risen Jesus

Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to Jesus' tomb. An angel appeared, and the guards fainted. But the news was wonderful: Jesus had risen from the dead! As the women hurried away, Jesus himself appeared, telling them he would see the disciples in Galilee.

Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Resurrection

People in the Bible respond differently to news of Jesus' resurrection. The guards at the tomb fainted in fear. But Mary Magdalene and the other women were overjoyed. Why? They believed that Jesus was God's Son, and his rising again was good news!

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands." No accompaniment is needed.

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you and we're here to learn about you!

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap, clap)

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

What is Good Friday? (It's the day Jesus died on a cross). But then, a few days later, something happened. Can anyone tell me what it was? (Call on volunteers). **Jesus rose again!** That's why we celebrate Easter to this day.

- What are some of the special things your family does on Easter? *(Call on volunteers to answer.)*

On the first Easter Sunday, when Mary Magdalene and some other women went to Jesus' tomb, an angel told them that he wasn't there. Why? **Jesus rose again!** After they left, what was the news the women shared with their friends? Say it with me: **Jesus rose again**!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

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e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: After Jesus died on the cross, his friends put his body in a large stone tomb. A huge rock covered the entrance to the tomb. When they were done, Jesus' friends left and went back home to rest and get ready for the Sabbath.

Read the caption: The day after Jesus was buried, Mary Magdalene and some other women went back to his tomb. They were very sad.

- *What are the women in this picture doing? [They are walking to Jesus' tomb and some of them are crying. They look sad.]*
- *What did they expect to find in the tomb? [Jesus' body buried there.]*

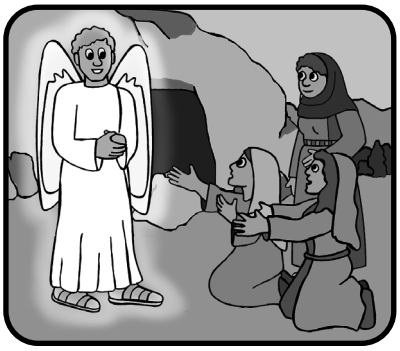


Picture 2

Tell the children: There were guards at the tomb to make sure that no one came to take Jesus away during the night. They had been there for a while when a strong earthquake shook the ground.

Read the caption: Suddenly, the Lord's angel appeared! His clothes were bright white. The guards who were there shook with fear and fell down.

- *Why do you think the guards fell down? Did the angel do something to them? [No, the guards were just scared because they had never seen an angel before.]*
- *What do you think you would do if an angel appeared to you? [Call on volunteers]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: The women saw the angel too. But he told them not to be afraid. He was there because he had great news. "Come, see where Jesus' body was laying," the angel said. So they did. He was not there! Where was Jesus?

Read the caption: The angel said that Jesus was alive! He was not in the tomb anymore! The women were amazed and filled with joy.

- *Why didn't the women fall down like the guards did? Why did they react so differently? [The women loved Jesus and trusted God. They were probably shocked, too, but the angel's message was good news to them.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: The angel told them to share this news with the other disciples. As they traveled down the road, the women were still amazed by all they had seen and heard that morning. But there was another surprise still in store for them!

Read the caption: After the women left, Jesus appeared to them. "Don't be scared," he said. "Go tell the others I will see them soon in Galilee."

- *Why might Jesus have told the women not to be scared? [They would not have been expecting to see him and were probably both shocked and overjoyed.]*

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f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

After Jesus Christ had died,
his friends stood at the tomb and cried.
Then the ground began to shake.
It trembled with a great earthquake.

An angel rolled the stone aside.
He stood on top and said with pride,
"Do not fear; he is not dead.
Christ has risen — as he said."

Just then, right before their eyes,
Jesus came — he was alive!
They ran back to his friends and said,
"The Lord has risen from the dead!"

g. Young Children's Craft (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

Activity: Go and Tell



Materials Needed:

White board, colored index cards, markers, sandwich bags.

Instructions:

Write these messages on the board: "Trust the Lord!" "God is good!" "Hope in the Lord." "Jesus loves you." "My peace I give you." Give each child five colored index cards and several markers. Invite kids to write one message on each card, being ready to assist those who need help with writing.

Once kids have written a message on each of their index cards, invite them to decorate these with Christian symbols and designs of different kinds. Images could include crosses, butterflies, doves, Bibles, churches, hearts, angels, etc.

When everyone has finished, give kids a sandwich bag or elastic band to keep their cards together. Encourage them to take their cards home and hide them around the house where family members will come upon them unexpectedly. Their message may be just what someone needs to find on a difficult day.

The angel at the tomb told Jesus' followers to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others. With our messages of hope, we can do the same!

h. Song (optional)

This classic children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong. [Refrain]

Refrain: **Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. [Refrain]

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- *Start:* **After Jesus died, Mary and some other women went to his tomb. What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

We thank you, Lord, for all you give,
For family, friends, the lives we live.
Please bless our church, and pastors too,
And help us all to trust in you.
For those who face hard times and pain,
We pray your peace might fall like rain. Amen.

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