

Lesson: Jesus Lives, No Doubt About It, Now Tell all About it!

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Written by Kristin Schmidt Last updated April 19, 2016 1 Comment Filed Under: Easter Ideas , Lesson Plans April 19, 2016



Jesus Walks Through the Walls... No Doubt About it! Tell all About it!

He's alive! So now what?? Once the eggs have been found, chocolate consumed, and bonnets put away, it may seem that Easter loses its thrill. But the empty tomb is only the beginning of the story, and there are important lessons to be gained from events immediately after the resurrection as well as further down the road. This lesson focuses on Christ's appearances after resurrection and how disciples perceived Him. Emphasis is on trusting, as well as how we are encouraged to spread the Good News with others.

Lesson focus: We can be certain that Jesus is alive and worthy of our trust; because He takes away sin, we are to spread the news of His work with other people.

Passage: John 20:19-31

Target Audience: K-6th Grade (adaptable)

Materials Needed: Dominoes; paper, glue, and yarn; crayons; reactive materials (vinegar and baking soda; Mentos and Diet Coke); lifesavers candies.

Lesson Opening: Trustworthy? Believable? How do we know if something is valid or not? Begin by inviting students to come up with three statements to share. Two of these should be true stories or facts, with one made up. As each kid shares, have the others in the group guess which statement is false (note: this can be easier with older kids. For younger ones, you may need adults to lead the sentence fabrication.). Mention how even grown-ups often say things that aren't quite true (especially relevant during election season!), but there is one thing we can now with absolute certainty beyond a doubt... Jesus rose from the dead to save us! We are just finishing the Easter celebrations, in which we learned of Christ's death on the cross and coming back to life. How amazing! But what happened after He came back to life? What did His disciples and other people around believe?

Bible Lesson:

Re-cap the Easter events and what took place after the tomb was found empty. Explain that there were still many in town (Jews, soldiers, etc.) who were trying to arrest the followers of Jesus. Imagine how the disciples may have felt...nervous, terrified, still sad and uncertain of the future. They were huddled in hiding when suddenly a change swept into the room:

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. -John 20:19-20

Look at that glorious contrast: from fear to faith, from locked doors to the Messiah's unlimited power. The disciples are plunged into joy. And Jesus doesn't stop there...

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." -John 20:21-23

What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? It means we are given power through God's being; and because of that, we are entrusted with the special task of telling others about what Jesus did.

Hold up the dominoes. Have students help to line them up in a long row, and field for predictions of what might happen if one were to fall over...then invite a child to start the chain reaction and watch the dominoes topple in a row...explain how when we accept Christ and share His love, that can start a reaction with others catching on and spreading the Good News. *Note, if feeling extra adventurous, use a more exciting and reactive element to illustrate this: make a baking soda/vinegar spout, or pour a tube of Mentos into a Diet Coke bottle. Explain how we can get so excited about Jesus that we can't help bubbling over to share!

Continue the Bible story by explaining that not all of the disciples encountered Jesus. One of them was not present for some reason...

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." -John 20:24-25

We don't know why Thomas missed the meeting, but his absence led to historical infamy. We now associate Thomas with doubt, as he stubbornly refuses to believe what the disciples share in spite of their evident joy. However, Christ comes bounding in again:

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." -John 20:26-29

Jesus comes back to make His presence and life absolutely and undeniably evident. He confronts the skeptical twin face to face and allows his doubts to be laid to rest. The most striking detail in this encounter, though, at least for our sake as modern believers, is in verse 29. Jesus says "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Who might that be? Us! We have not physically seen Jesus, but we know in whom we believe, and are blessed for it.

Craft: Bookmarks and Good News spreading...Have students create the bookmarks; help them cut and hole punch (glue to cardstock if necessary) and attach string. Then provide paper and note caption. Have students create encouraging Good News cards to pass along to friends, reminding them that Christ is their "life saver"! Attach candy (and maybe eat one, as well...). J

Close with prayer and reminder of God's work in our lives. Thank God for the resurrection of Jesus. Thank Him for loving us and ask for help in sharing that love with others.

Bible Lesson: Resurrected Jesus Appears to Many

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Written by Kelly Henderson Last updated May 5, 2014 Leave a Comment Filed Under: Lesson Plans

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This lesson was adapted for a small group of children ranging from 6-10 years old. The lesson introduces students how to read and discover what is in each verse as we go through the selected verses from John 20 as a class. The students will discover that our sins can be forgiven because Jesus is alive!

Bible Passage: Selected passages (John 20:19-20; 24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:3, 9-11)

Bible Story Title: Resurrected Jesus appears to many

Target Age Group: Ages 6-11 (K-5th Grade U.S.A.)

Target Time Frame: 60 Minutes

Original Teaching Context: Sunday School

Supply List: Bibles (Preferably the same version so students can easily follow along), Butcher paper (if writing the answer in phrases with blanks), activity sheets, pens, pencils, Resurrection picture books)

Learning Goal: Students will learn that sins can be forgiven because Jesus is alive.

Learning Activity #1: [Activity pages](#)

We've also turned the illustration above into a free [Resurrected Jesus Coloring page](#) available in several languages.

Memory Verse: "He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3

Bible Lesson: Resurrected Jesus Appears to Many

(Begin with prayer)

Question of the day: What did Jesus do after He was raised from the dead? (Jesus appeared to many people as proof that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and He is still alive today.)

(Write the question on the board. Break the answer up by writing on paper (I used butcher paper) with phrases that have a blank that will be filled in and the paper taped to the board as you teach through the lesson.)

One of the best ways we learn is to ask questions and learn the answers. Our question today is "What did Jesus do after He was raised from the dead?"

If we have questions about God we should always turn to His Word the Bible for answers. (Our class has some young students who can't read. Pair them with an adult volunteer who will guide them by pointing to the words in the Bible as the verses are read. Encourage those who can't read to listen closely because they will be able to answer the questions that will follow reading the verses.)

Let's turn to John 20:19. (Read selected verses and ask questions.)

John 20:19

What time of day was it? (Evening)

Where were the disciples? (Locked in a room)

Why were the disciples locked in a room? (They were afraid of the Jews)

Why do you think they were afraid? (Answers will vary)

Who **appeared** in the room? (Jesus)

How did He get into the locked room? (Answers may vary)

What did Jesus say? (Peace be with you.)

John 20:20

What did Jesus show the disciples? (His hands and His side)

How did the disciples feel when they saw the Lord? (Glad)

Luke tells us that when Jesus **appeared** in the room they were startled and frightened thinking they saw a spirit. Jesus asked them why they were troubled. He said "Touch Me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." Jesus also asked if they had anything to eat and they gave him broiled fish and he ate before them. (Luke 24:36-43)

John 20:24

Which disciple was not with the disciples when Jesus **appeared**? (Thomas)

Where do you think Thomas was? (Answers will vary. The Bible doesn't tell us where Thomas was so these are just our thoughts.)

John 20:25

What did the disciples tell Thomas? (They had seen the Lord)

What did Thomas say he needed to see and do before he would believe? (See the marks of the nails and place his finger in the mark of the nails, and place his hand in His side.)

John 20:26

How many days have passed since Jesus **appeared** to the disciples? (8)

Who was included with the disciples this time? (Thomas)

Where are the disciples? (In a locked room)

Who **appeared** again in the locked room? (Jesus)

John 20:27

What did Jesus tell Thomas to do? (Put your finger here and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve but believe.)

John 20:28

How did Thomas respond to Jesus? (He believed)

John 20:29

Who did Jesus say would be blessed? (Those who have not seen and yet have believed)

Today if you are a believer Jesus says you are blessed because you have not seen His resurrected body and still believe He is alive.

We walked through this one passage and examined the verses because it is very important for believers to read and study God's Word. What we did as a class is something you can do when you read your Bible during your daily quiet time. This allows you to stop and think and discover what God is teaching you from the passage.

Let's look again at our question for today. Let's see if we can fill in the first blank.

What did Jesus do after He was raised from the dead? (Appeared)

Jesus _____

Let's look at another passage of Scripture to find the next blank in our answer.

Turn to **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**. (Choose volunteers to read this passage.)

To whom did Jesus appear? (Cephas (Peter) Twelve disciples (Acts 1:23 Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot), 500 brothers at one time, James, and Paul.)

Let's fill in the second blank of our answer (people).

Jesus appeared to many _____

Our final passage we are going to look at is **Acts 1:3** and **verses 9-11**.

He (Jesus) presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many **proofs**, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

This verse has the answer for our third blank in our answer; can anyone guess what it may be? (Proof)

Jesus appeared to many people as _____ that God had raised Jesus from the dead,

How many days did Jesus stay on the earth after He was raised from the dead? (40)

Have volunteer read **Acts 1:9**. What happened to Jesus after He spoke to His disciples? (He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.)

Read Acts 1:10-11.

Where were the disciples looking? (Into heaven)

What did the 2 men in white robes say to the disciples? (Why are you looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.)

Let's fill in our last blank for answer. (Alive) and He is still ____ today.

(Ask the question and allow the students to recite the full answer.)

Gospel connection:

It is important that Jesus is alive. If He died on the cross and stayed dead people would not have forgiveness for sins. (1 Corinthians 15:12-22) Jesus died for our sins and God was pleased with His sacrifice and raised Him from the dead. All who confess with their

mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead, will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Close in prayer.