

JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD**Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20****Lesson Memory Verse:** Matthew 28:6a – “He is not here: for He is risen.”**Lesson Aim:** To teach the children that Jesus conquered sin and death and to make sure each child has the opportunity to trust Jesus Christ as Savior.**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Ask the children to raise their hands if any of them are sad. If so, ask them why they are sad. In today's lesson we will learn about several people that were very sad, but we will also learn how their sadness turned to joy. There is story about a man who was walking in the rain when he met a little boy who looked very poor. His clothes were torn and worn out, but he had a happy smile on his face. The man asked him, “Are you always happy?” The little boy answered, “Yes, sir!” Then he was asked, “Don't you ever worry and get sad?” “No, sir! I never worry because I have a good place to sleep and enough food to eat and I know that Jesus will always take care of me!” That was a good answer, wasn't it?

HE (for Authority): As we begin our Bible story today, we learn that the followers of Jesus were very sad. You see, Jesus had died a few days before and they lost all of their joy. But on Sunday, the first day of the week, Jesus arose from the dead just as He said He would do. The angel at the tomb said, “He is not here” for He is risen...” (Mt. 28:6a) .It was this message that soon became known to all of the believers. When they believed that He was alive, all of the sadness left them and they were joyful once again. It is true, “He is risen.” That should make us joyful, too. Are you joyful because Jesus has risen from the dead, or doesn't it make any difference to you? Let's find out why it made such a big difference to those people who lived in Jesus' time. I'm sure their reasons for being joyful will help us to be joyful.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. We are going to see how Jesus gave His followers joy when they saw He had truly risen from the dead.

I. The Women (Matthew 28:1-10)

The women came to the tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday) to put spices on Jesus' body. On the way to the tomb, they felt an earthquake. When they came to the tomb, they saw that the stone covering the tomb's entrance was rolled away. Then they saw a brilliant white angel and heard him say that Jesus was raised from the dead. They saw the place was empty where Jesus was laid in the tomb. Then the angel told them to tell this good news to the disciples and as they left the tomb area to obey the angel, they had great joy. But something better happened. They actually met Jesus on their way to the disciples and when they saw Him, they worshipped Him. Yes, they knew that Jesus was alive! They were happy because the Master that they loved had risen from the dead. Their spices were not needed. Jesus had done a new thing. He had conquered death.

WE: We should rejoice that Jesus is alive! We could not be saved from eternal death in hell if Jesus had not risen from the dead. Are you glad that He is alive?

II. Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18)

Mary Magdalene also came with the women, but she hurriedly left when she saw the stone had been rolled away from the tomb's entrance. She thought Jesus' body had been stolen, so she ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran to the tomb and Mary followed. When these men left the empty tomb, Mary remained and wept over the loss of Jesus' body. She saw two angels in the tomb who asked why she was weeping and she told them that it was because of the loss of Jesus' body. Then she saw Jesus, but she thought He was the gardener and she asked Him to tell her where Jesus' body was, if He knew. He simply said, “Mary.” When He said it, she recognized His voice immediately. She knew the "gardener" was Jesus. He was alive!! No longer did she weep. Her heart was filled with joy. Not only did she find Jesus' body, but she found that Jesus was alive in His body. This was much better than she had hoped or dreamed.

WE: We should get excited when we think about Jesus being alive. If we love Him and have accepted Him as our Savior, we also will see Him alive. Do you believe that you will see Him alive?

III. Two Disciples on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-35)

Two disciples walked to Emmaus from Jerusalem and on their way they were joined by Jesus without knowing it. They thought He was a stranger. They were very sad about Jesus' death because they had expected Him to free Israel from the Roman government and make Israel a great nation. Then Jesus, without letting them know who He was, explained the Old Testament Scriptures showing how the Messiah had to die and be glorified. Their hearts burned within them as they listened to Him, but they still did not recognize Him. It was not until that evening when He broke the bread with them at the meal that they knew who He was. When their eyes were opened, He vanished from their sight, but they knew that Jesus was alive. He was seen with their own eyes. They were so happy about seeing Jesus that they ran back to Jerusalem, seven miles away, so they could tell the good news to the other disciples. God's promise that Jesus would save them was true after all. Why? Jesus could save them because He was alive and now He could save them from the evils of this world and give them eternal life.

WE: We must not be sad when things do not happen like we expect. Jesus is alive and He will save us from our sins and from the sins of this world. Are your eyes open to see that Jesus is alive and you do not have to be sad any longer?

IV. Ten Disciples (John 20:19-23)

Ten of the disciples were locked in an upper room because they were afraid of the Jews, but Thomas was not with them. Then Jesus suddenly appeared to them and blessed them with peace. What joy it was for them to see and hear Jesus for themselves. It soon took all their fears away. Now they were sure that He could save them.

WE: When we really believe Jesus is alive and can take care of us, our fears will vanish, too, Joy will fill our lives and give us hope. It will take away our fears and sadness. Has Jesus taken away your fears and sadness? When you believe He is alive and is with you all the time, it will happen.

V. Thomas with the Other Disciples (John 20:24-29)

Thomas heard the disciples say that Jesus was alive, but he did not believe it. Eight days later Thomas was with the other disciples and Jesus appeared to them in the upper room. Jesus told Thomas to touch His body where He had been nailed to the cross and where the soldier's spear had pierced His side. Thomas was changed. No longer was he a doubter, but he believed. He believed Jesus was alive. He was sure of it. What joy must have filled his heart when his doubts were all gone!

WE: We will be filled with joy when we are sure that Jesus is alive and is able to save us. Doubts will flee away. We will rejoice like Thomas. Do you have doubts about Jesus being alive? Satan puts these doubts in your mind to keep you from trusting in Jesus to save you. The Bible says that if you call on the Lord, you will be saved (Rom 10:13). The proof that your salvation is genuine is your confession to others that Jesus is the Lord and your belief that God has raised Him from the dead (Rom 10:9). If you have sincerely done what God says in the Bible, joy will fill your heart as it did for Thomas.

BE (for Action): Now you have the reasons why these people were joyful when they learned that Jesus arose from the dead. Let's review them. **The women** were joyful because their Master had conquered death and was alive. **Mary Magdalene** was joyful because she found Jesus alive in His body. **The two disciples** were joyful because all of God's promises to them would be kept. **The ten disciples** were joyful because they saw for themselves that Jesus was alive. As a result, it took away their fears. **Thomas** was joyful because all of his doubts were finally taken away.

They thought Jesus had left them for this life, but He had not. Now He was with them again before He went to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in them. In this way He would be able to be with them always. Jesus never again left them alone, and He never will leave us alone if we have asked Him to save us. Have you ever asked Jesus to save you? If you asked, do you believe He heard you? If you never asked Jesus to save you or you are not sure that He heard you, let me help you to do it today.