



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 3, Unit 8, Easter: Jesus Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26-28

Personal Preparation

The events leading up to Jesus' death were terrifying for the disciples. Judas, their supposed friend, betrayed their Lord. Jesus was arrested, beaten, and killed. Though Jesus had plainly told the disciples that he would die and rise again on the third day, they did not understand. In fact, they were afraid to ask about it (Mark 9:31-32). They had believed that Jesus was the one who would rescue God's people, but how could he if he was dead?

Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb, Jesus wasn't there. An angel of the Lord appeared. The guards were so afraid that they fainted. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid." The angel reassured the women that Jesus' body hadn't been stolen; in fact, "he has risen, just as he said" (Matt. 28:5-6).

The women left the tomb with fear (perhaps because they did not fully understand what was happening) and great joy (because they had heard Jesus was alive!) to tell the disciples the news. As they were leaving, Jesus also greeted them: "Do not be afraid."

Fear exists when there is a perceived danger or threat. When Jesus rose from the dead, he eliminated the threat of eternal separation from God for all who trust in him. Even real dangers like suffering and persecution need not be feared because nothing—neither life nor death—can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39).

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the center of it. As you teach individuals this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what he has done. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey him. Pray that the individuals would understand this good news and put their trust in Jesus. Thank God for his mercy and grace in sending Jesus.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group.

Deuteronomy 31:8

"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Points of Emphasis

1. Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.
2. We can glorify God by loving him and obeying him.

Activity #1

Guide the group to begin filling out the activity sheet. Feel free to allow the individuals to continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

You may know that the Bible contains many different stories. However, those stories also fit together to tell one big story. That story

is about God loving people despite the ways we disobey him and make sinful choices. In fact, he showed his love by sending a rescuer to take the punishment we deserve!

Today, we are going to talk about a story that didn't take place in the Old Testament, but in the New. This story is the center of the gospel. We know from stories in the Old Testament that God gave his people lots of victories over their enemies, especially while they were led by Joshua. Our story today is about the biggest and best victory God ever provided—victory over sin and death. And he provided it through his Son, Jesus. Our story is called “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.”

Play the video for today’s lesson titled “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.”

Bible Lesson

This story is the center of the Bible’s primary story. This is like the climax, where everything in the history of the world turned around. After years and years of God’s people offering sacrifices to have forgiveness of sin, Jesus died to be the final and perfect sacrifice. After years and years of separation from God, the temple curtain ripped in two to show that we could approach God personally. After years and years of people being dead in sin, Jesus rose again to bring us eternal life with God.

This story is absolutely the most important story that the world has ever known or will ever know. God has been telling it from the very beginning. Since before Adam and Eve sinned, God had a plan to send a Rescuer. Jesus came, he lived, he died, and he is alive again. Because of Jesus, we don’t have to fear anything—not even sin or death. We have victory because Jesus is victorious. This is the gospel, and it is good news.

Activity #2

Guide the group to finish filling out the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the individuals and help them learn it. Encourage them to put the verse together using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey him.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play today’s episode of Questions from Kids (QFK) to continue the discussion on Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Today’s episode asks why we take the Lord’s Supper at church.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who is God’s Son?** Jesus
2. **How did Jesus die?** Cross
3. **Who rose from the dead on the third day?** Jesus
4. **Is Jesus still alive?** Yes!

Group B

1. **What did Jesus pray in the garden?** He asked God to take the suffering away but agreed to do God’s plan no matter what.
2. **How did Jesus die?** He was hung on a cross, or crucified.
3. **What did the women find on the third day?** An empty tomb, an angel who said that Jesus rose again
4. **Why is it important that Jesus perfectly obeyed God?** Jesus could only be the perfect sacrifice for our sin if he was not a sinner. His perfect obedience is amazing

and true, and it's the reason his death was enough to pay for sin.

- 5. Why is it important that Jesus really died?** God demands a sacrifice for sin. Because we are sinners, we deserve death. If there were no sacrifice, God would not be perfectly just. Jesus had to die for us to be forgiven.
- 6. Why is it important that Jesus rose to life?** Jesus' rising again was proof that his sacrifice was enough. He rose again to prove that sin and death were totally defeated. We have victory in Christ.

Group C

- 1. What did Jesus give up in order to save us?** Lead the individuals to discuss not only Jesus' giving up his life, but his humility in coming from a position of honor in heaven to earth as a baby.
- 2. Where is Jesus today?** Jesus is alive! He is in heaven at the right hand of God, and one day he will return to set up his kingdom and make everything right.
- 3. What does it look like to "lay down your life" for someone else?** Prompt the individuals to think of situations in which they can put others' needs before their own. Point out that they can lay down their lives even while they live, reflecting the servant attitude of Jesus.

Group D

Advanced Learner

- 1. What does this story teach us about God?** Jesus is fully God and fully man. But the religious leaders convinced the crowd in Jerusalem that Jesus should die. The people who welcomed Jesus and praised him at the beginning of the week now hated him. God sent his Son into the world to be the Savior. The Bible says that sin requires payment, and the fair payment for sin is death. Jesus died to pay the price for our sin.
- 2. Why is it important that Jesus is alive?** On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus' resurrection shows us that God accepted Jesus' payment for our sin. Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin

and rose again to defeat death. Jesus is alive! Because of his sacrifice, we can have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

- 3. Why do you think Jesus rose from the dead?**
- 4. How should the fact that Jesus is alive change how we live?**

Prayer

Lord God, you sent your Son to die on the cross for our sin, and you raised him from the dead! Our greatest enemies—sin and death—have been defeated, so everyone who trusts in you does not have to be afraid. Help us to understand the reality that Jesus is alive! We look forward to a future with you forever. Amen.

