



TEACHER BOOK

YEAR 3 • BOOK 3

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Generations of Grace
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

www.generationsofgrace.com

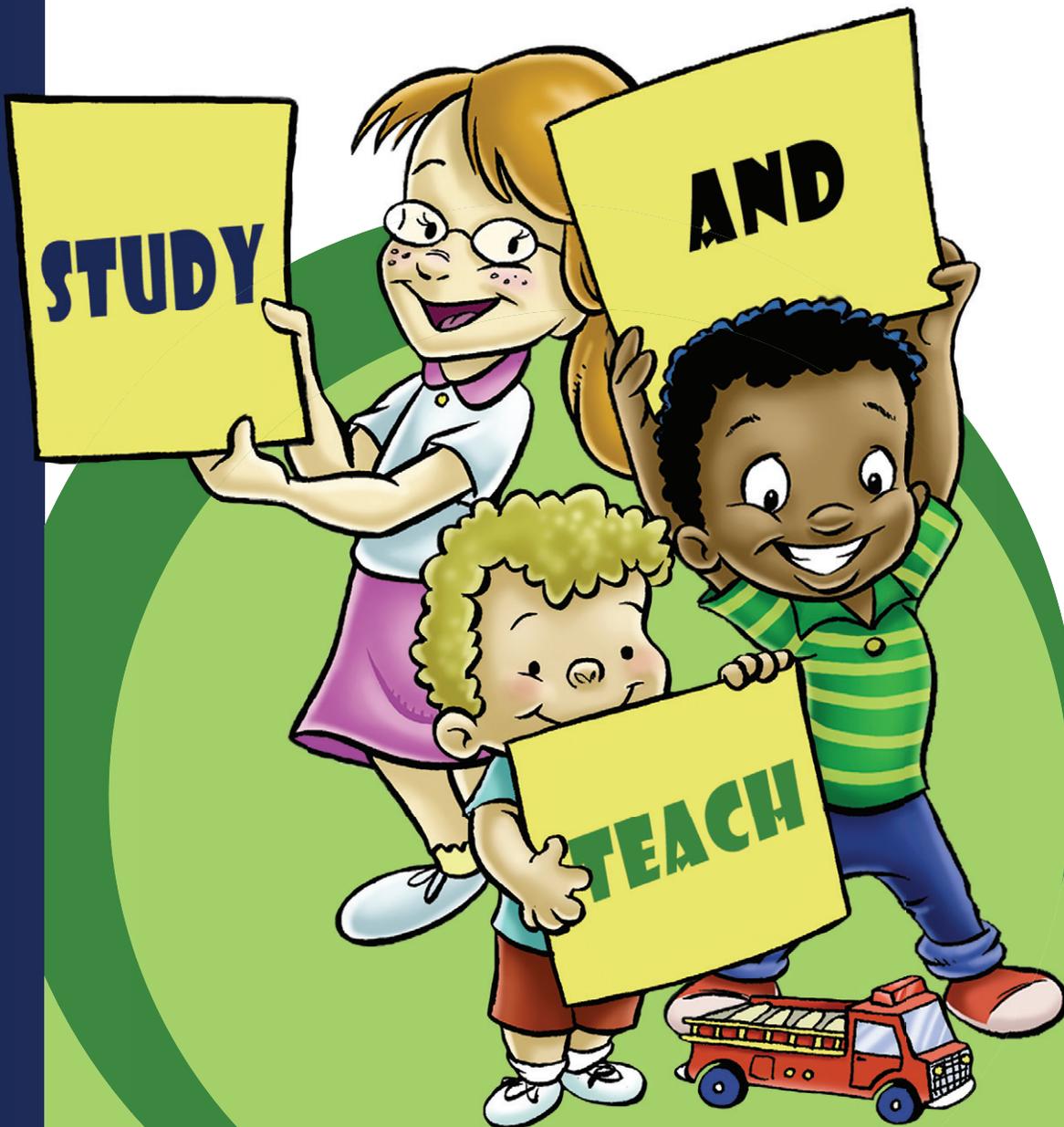
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WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to edify your teachers, evangelize your children, and encourage your families.



Study the Lesson

This section is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide you through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.

- **Central Truth** – Identifies the theme and focal point of lesson.
- **Supporting Truths** – Provides appropriate objectives for mastering the central truth.
- **Spotlight on the Gospel** – Explains how each lesson connects to the gospel.
- **Lesson Commentary** – Communicates the truth of each lesson to the teacher's heart and mind.



Teach the Lesson

Use the child involvement resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.

- **Outlines** – Guide both teachers and children through the lesson.
- **Lesson Questions** – Foster greater interaction between teacher and child.
- **Activities** – Creative opening ideas, visual aids, and crafts to introduce, illustrate, and apply lesson.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Family Devotional**

CONTENTS

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS INTO JUDEA AND SAMARIA

5 LESSON 30: *The Church is Persecuted and the Gospel Spreads*
Acts 8:1-25

15 LESSON 31: *Philip Shares the Gospel with the Ethiopian*
Acts 8:26-40

25 LESSON 32: *Saul is converted*
Acts 9:1-31

35 LESSON 33: *The Gentiles receive the Gospel*
Acts 10:1-11:18

45 LESSON 34: *God frees Peter from prison*
Acts 12:1-24

THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH

55 LESSON 35: *The Gentiles are saved by faith alone*
Acts 15:1-35

65 LESSON 36: *The Philippian Jailer is saved*
Acts 16:16-40

75 LESSON 37: *Paul preaches in Athens*
Acts 17:16-34

85 LESSON 38: *God protects Paul*
Acts 27:1-44

95 LESSON 39: *Paul testifies to the Gospel in Rome*
Acts 28:11-31

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

105 LESSON 40: *John testifies to the exalted Jesus*
Revelation 1:1-20

115 LESSON 41: *John sees the worthy Lamb*
Revelation 5:1-14

125 LESSON 42: *God will judge the world*
Revelation 19:11-20:15

135 LESSON 43: *God creates a New Heaven and New Earth*
Revelation 21:1-22:21

CHRISTMAS – THE SON OF GOD BECOMES MAN

145 CHRISTMAS LESSON 1: *The Pre-Existence of the Son of God*
John 1:1-5

155 CHRISTMAS LESSON 2: *The Incarnation of the Son of God*
John 1:6-18

EASTER – THE SON OF GOD CONQUERS DEATH

165 EASTER LESSON 1: *The Crucifixion of the Son of God*
John 18:28-19:42

175 EASTER LESSON 2: *The Resurrection of the Son of God*
John 20:1-31



EASTER LESSON 1

The crucifixion of the Son of God

JOHN 18:28-19:42



Jesus died to finish His mission on earth.



“[Jesus] said, ‘It is finished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (John 19:30).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus died on a cross.
2. Jesus is the Truth.
3. Jesus is the Son of God.
4. Jesus is the King.
5. Jesus finished His mission according to God’s sovereign plan.

Objectives

1. State that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin and shame.
2. Contrast Jesus’ truthfulness with the lies and injustice of His enemies.
3. Explain that Jesus came into the world and died to make the Father known.
4. Contrast Jesus’ true kingship with the mockery of His enemies.
5. List several prophecies Jesus fulfilled in the way He died.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

The crucifixion of the Son of God • John 18:28–19:42



Lesson Summary

Jesus' enemies thought they finally had Jesus trapped. The Jews brought Jesus to Pilate, and they used lies and threats to make Pilate do what they wanted. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but he had no commitment to the truth. So under pressure, he gave the order to crucify Jesus. But Jesus was not trapped. He was finishing His mission exactly according to plan. Even in His death He finished doing everything Scripture said about Him.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Both in His life and in His death, Jesus was true to the Father. In His life He never sinned, so He fulfilled the law for the sake of sinners. And in His death, He perfectly displayed God's righteousness and satisfied God's just wrath. Whoever trusts in Him as the way, the truth, and the life can now come to the Father through Him.

THIS WEEK



**The crucifixion of the
Son of God**
John 18:28–19:42

NEXT WEEK



**The resurrection of the
Son of God**
John 20:1–31

Lesson Commentary

Jesus died to finish His mission on earth.

What was happening? To Jesus' disciples, their hope for the kingdom was unraveling. To the Jews, their troublesome enemy was finally going to be eliminated. And to Pilate, this was just another difficult day trying to please both the Jews and Rome. But to Jesus, this was something else entirely. It was not a surprise or a defeat. It was the day when He would finish His mission. As the eternal Son of God, He made the Father known by His sinless life and His willing death.

The Son of God proved true in His trial (18:28–19:16a)

Jesus' innocence was confirmed during His trial before Pilate. The Jews confirmed it by relying on insolence, deceit, and threats instead of real evidence. They arrogantly refused to come into Pilate's headquarters (John 18:28). They considered Gentile houses unclean, and they cared more about their religious rules than they did about God's own Son. They also spoke rudely to Pilate, essentially telling him, "All you need to know is that we think He's guilty. Now do your job and execute Him" (18:29–30). The Jews' insolence confirms that they had no solid charges against Jesus.

Eventually, they brought two charges, but both were deceitful. First, they said Jesus claimed to be king (18:33; Luke 23:2), making Him a rebel against the Roman emperor Tiberius. It was true He claimed to be King (Mark 14:61–62), but since His kingdom would not come by human means (John 18:36), He was not a threat to Rome. Second, the Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy (19:7), a crime worthy of death (Lev 24:16). But this accusation was also a lie, since Jesus said nothing wrong. The Jews proved their deceit by their double-standard. While accusing Jesus of rebellion, they set free a truly violent rebel (John 18:40; Mark 15:11)! While accusing Jesus of blasphemy, they blasphemed by denying their true King (John 19:15b; 1 Sam 8:7). Their deceitful charges proved that they were guilty, not Jesus.

Finally, the Jews used threats (John 19:12). Pilate had a bad track record as governor of Judea. He was stubborn and violent, and he hated the Jews.

Once before, the Jews had appealed to Tiberius Caesar, and Tiberius had decided in their favor against Pilate. If the Jews went to Tiberius again, especially with news that Pilate had set someone free who claimed to be king, then Tiberius might kill Pilate or end his political career. These threats worked, but they also showed that Jesus did not die for any wrong He had done.

Pilate also confirmed that Jesus was innocent. He said it three times (18:38; 19:4, 6). But to save himself, he rejected Jesus as the true God (18:37–38). As a result, he had no **truth**, no absolute standard of right and wrong (18:38). He was a pragmatist, trying to get the best results for himself. When a crowd had come to ask him to set a prisoner free (Mark 15:8), Pilate tried to use Jesus' popularity to turn the crowd against the Jewish leaders (John 18:39–40; cf. Mark 15:11). When that didn't work, he had Jesus beaten, mocked, and paraded before the crowd to try to get the people's sympathy (John 19:1–5). When that failed, he tried bullying. He mockingly reminded the Jews that he was in charge (19:6b), and he taunted them by calling Jesus "your king" (19:14). Yet in the end, Pilate wasn't willing to risk his life, even for a man he knew was innocent.

In contrast to the lies and manipulation of others, Jesus spoke the truth. He told the truth about His kingdom. Although His kingdom will one day be on earth, it will not come by human methods (19:36; Dan 2:44–45; Rev 20:6), and until that time His kingdom spreads in the hearts of believers not by war or politics but by the gospel. He also spoke the truth about Pilate's authority (John 19:11). He said that Pilate would not be Jesus' judge if God had not

THINK ABOUT IT

The Jews chose Barabbas, which means "son of a father," over Jesus, the Son of the Father.



THINK ABOUT IT

The religious leaders bullied Pilate into condemning Jesus.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

The crucifixion of the Son of God • John 18:28–19:42



arranged events to bring Jesus to this trial. God was sovereign over the whole process. He even used the legal details to fulfill prophecy: Jesus would be killed by being lifted up on a cross the Roman way instead of being thrown down and stoned the Jewish way (Lev 24:16; Num 21:8–9; John 3:14). So even while on trial for His life, Jesus kept fulfilling His mission. He was telling the truth by testifying about God and His kingdom.

Jesus told the truth because He is the truth (John 14:6). He is the Word, the Light, and the Son who always makes God known. And He was in the world for this one reason: to declare the **truth** (18:37). He entered His own creation, became a human, and was about to die so that people could know ultimate reality—God Himself. To do this, He needed a sinless life, for God is holy. And He also had to die to make God's righteousness and mercy known (Rom 3:25) and open the way for sinners to come to God (1 Pet 3:18). Jesus' truthfulness confirms that He is the innocent Lamb of God (John 1:29).

The Son of God proved true in His death (19:16b–42)

The details of Jesus' death confirm that His death was no accident. This was part of His mission, and He stayed true to His mission to the very end. The soldiers led Him away, like a lamb led to slaughter (19:16b). He was led to die outside of the city as a sin offering (Lev 16:27; Heb 13:11–12). He was put to death with criminals (John 19:18; Isa 53:12). He was lifted up on a cross (Num 21:8–9; John 3:14) to be the curse in the place of sinners (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13). His hands and feet were pierced (Ps 22:16; Isa 53:5), with a nail driven through His heels (Gen 3:15). He died as the Messiah, the King of the Jews (John 19:19–22; Dan 9:26). Even the small detail of His clothing being divided fulfills Scripture and confirms He is the King who dies to bring people to God (John 19:23–24; Ps 22:18).

Even when on the cross, Jesus made sure to fulfill Scripture. By making sure His widowed mother had a believer to care for her, He kept the 5th commandment (John 19:25–27; Exod 20:12). By loving others as He was dying, He kept the second greatest commandment (Mark 12:31). By faithfully keeping all of Scripture to the very end, He kept the greatest commandment of all (12:28–30; Deut 6:5). Even His thirst and the sour wine fulfilled Scripture (John 19:28–29; Ps 22:15; 69:21), and the hyssop branch used to hold up the sponge was the same plant used for the blood at Passover (Exod 12:22). So when Jesus cried "It is finished," it was a cry of triumph (John 19:30). He finished His life without sin (1 Pet 2:22), atoned for sin (Heb 9:12), defeated Satan (Heb 2:14), satisfied God's wrath (Rom 3:25), and willingly gave up His own life so that others could live (Isa 53:12).

The events after Jesus died again confirm that He died exactly according to plan. He was the final Passover Lamb, killed on Passover without any broken bones (John 19:31–36; Exod 12:46; Ps 34:20). He was the firstborn, pierced through because of the hatred of His own people (John 19:37; Zech 12:10). And He most certainly died as water and blood flowed out, a vivid reminder that redemption and cleansing comes by His death (John 3:5; 1 John 1:7). Finally, although killed as a criminal, He was buried with honor in the new tomb of a rich man (19:38–42; Matt 27:57; Isa 53:9). All these fulfilled prophecies show that Jesus was in control even in His death (John 10:18; Acts 2:23; 3:18; 13:27). He willingly chose to accomplish His mission. He lived and died so that sinners could know God the way they were created to know Him (John 17:3).

THINK ABOUT IT

Because Jesus stayed true to His mission to the very end, so do His followers (2 Tim 4:7).



Lesson Outline

Jesus died to finish His mission on earth.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus is the truth and tells us the truth (18:28–19:16a).
2. Jesus died for sins so that we can know God (19:16b–42).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Son of God proved true in His trial (18:28–19:16a).
 - The Jews failed to prove that Jesus was guilty (18:28–30, 33, 40; 19:7, 12, 15b).
 - Pilate declared Jesus innocent three times (18:38; 19:4, 6).
 - Jesus' truthful testimony proved His innocence (18:36–37; 19:11).
2. The Son of God proved true in His death (19:16b–42).
 - Jesus was crucified according to Scripture (19:17–22).
 - Jesus' clothes were divided according to Scripture (19:23–24).
 - Jesus made sure to fulfill Scripture completely (19:25–30).
 - Jesus was stabbed according to Scripture (19:31–37).
 - Jesus was buried according to Scripture (19:38–42).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did Jesus tell Pilate He came into the world for?**
To bear witness to the truth. To tell the truth and show everyone what is true.
- 2. Was Jesus killed because He did something wrong?**
No. He was killed because people hated Him.
- 3. What did the soldiers do with His clothes?**
They divided them into four parts, casting lots (like rolling dice) to decide who got His tunic.
- 4. Did the soldiers break Jesus' bones?**
No. He was already dead.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did the Jews accuse Jesus of?**
Being a rebel king and blaspheming.
- 2. Were the Jews telling the truth?**
No. Jesus was a king, but He was not a rebel against Rome. He did claim to be the Son of God, but He did not blaspheme because He really was the Son of God.
- 3. How did the Jews get Pilate to crucify Jesus?**
They threatened to make Pilate look bad in front of the emperor.
- 4. Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty?**
No. He said Jesus was innocent three times.
- 5. Why did Pilate not stand up for Jesus in the end?**
Pilate did not believe in truth. He only did what he thought was best for him.
- 6. Why did Jesus always tell the truth?**
Because He is the truth. He came to earth as a human to show humans who God truly is.
- 7. Why did Jesus need to die?**
His mission was to make it so that people could know the Father. But to do that, He had to deal with the sin that keeps sinners from a holy God.
- 8. What are some ways that Jesus' death fulfilled prophecy?**
See the second point in the commentary.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

RACING FLAGS, PART 1

In today's lesson, Jesus dies on the cross. But this event was not a surprise or defeat. This event was planned by God and marked the completion of Jesus' mission on earth. Hold up a checkered flag and wave it back and forth. Do the children know what this flag is used for? It is used to show the winner of a car race. When Jesus died on the cross He was not defeated. In fact, the cross shows the exact opposite: the completion of Jesus' race on earth and victory over sin (wave the flag).

THE TRUTH

Do the children know who Pinocchio is? Have they ever listened to a story or watched a movie about him? He is a wooden marionette that often gets into trouble and lies to try to hide what he's done. What happens when he lies? His nose grows! In today's lesson, we're going to meet a group of people who told lies in order to kill Jesus: the religious leaders. Have the children touch their noses. Tell them to touch their nose whenever the religious leaders lie in today's lesson.



ILLUSTRATE

RACING FLAGS, PART 2

Do the children know what some other common racing flags mean? Bring in a green flag, a yellow flag, and a red flag. Use them throughout the lesson (along with the checkered flag from Part 1) to illustrate the completion of Jesus' ministry and His victory over sin. The green flag marks the beginning of the race (Jesus' race on earth began when He was born a baby on Christmas). The yellow flag is used to tell drivers to slow down because of an accident or debris on the racetrack (Jesus' enemies tried to hinder His ministry but couldn't). The red flag tells drivers that the race has been delayed or stopped (Jesus' enemies thought that the cross ended Jesus' race).

VISUAL AIDS

Use a variety of props to help tell the story: a chair (for a judge's seat), a crown (for a king), crown of thorns (or just some thorns), old purple robe, small cross, large nail or railroad spike.



APPLY

IT IS FINISHED!

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Foam coffee cup, craft sheet, craft stick, crayons, glue, tape, scissors.

Directions: Make a cross with the two craft stick and let the glue dry. Color the foam coffee cup. Color the craft page and cut it. Tape it to the coffee cup. Use the scissors to make a little hole at the bottom of the coffee cup to insert the cross.



It Is Finished!
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

The crucifixion of the Son of God • John 18:28–19:42



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

U.S. SOLDIER'S CREED

Read the current U.S. Soldier's Creed (authorized in May 2003), emphasizing the following lines: "I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit." This creed is learned by all U.S. Army personnel during basic training. It is the goal of every soldier to live up to this creed. However, because man is sinful, this does not always happen. But this is not the case with God. In today's lesson, we're going to see how Jesus completely fulfilled His mission through His death on the cross.

BULLIES

Do the children know what a bully is? A bully is someone who uses their strength or power to hurt another person or make them do something they don't want to do. Have the children ever been bullied at church or school? In today's lesson, we're going to meet some bullies. The Jewish religious leaders bullied Pilate (Roman governor of Judea) into killing Jesus. As you listen to the lesson, see if you can identify the different ways the religious leaders bullied Pilate.



ILLUSTRATE

TRUTH VS. LIE

Give each child a green piece of paper and a red piece of paper. Have each child write "truth" on the green paper and "lie" on the red paper. As you tell the story of the trial, have them hold up one sign or the other to show if a person is telling the truth or a lie.

NOT AN ACCIDENT

Have the children ever seen a police car, ambulance, or firetruck rushing to the scene of an accident with their lights on and sirens wailing? Policemen, EMTs, and firemen have to be ready to respond at any time because they don't know when an accident is going to happen. But Jesus' death was not an accident. It was planned by God and perfectly carried out by Jesus. His death was the completion of God's mission to rescue sinners.



APPLY

THE CROSS

Materials: Black cardstock, toothpicks, glue, yarn, scissors.

Directions: Make a cross shape on the cardstock. Put glue on it and glue the toothpicks on it. Wait till the toothpicks are dried, and then cut the cross. Use the yarn to make a lace for the bookmark.



The Cross

AGES 9–11



BIG STICK DIPLOMACY

With a big stick in your hand, tell the children that U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once famously said, “Speak softly, and carry a big stick.” What does this mean? President Roosevelt used it to describe his foreign policy: he didn’t need to raise his voice when negotiating with other countries because of the threat posed by the U.S. military. In today’s lesson, the Jewish religious leaders are able to force Pilate to execute Jesus by threatening to make their case known to Tiberius Caesar.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Have the children ever been trusted with an important job? Did they complete it? Did they do it exactly the way they were supposed to? Were they tempted to cut any corners in order to make the job easier or finish it quicker? In today’s lesson, we’re going to learn about the completion of Jesus’ mission on earth: His substitutionary death on the cross. He died to pay the penalty our sins deserve, and through His death we are able to have a relationship with God. But His death also provides us with an example of how we are to work: until the job is finished and everything is done right.



BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Have the children ever heard this phrase? It describes a problem that has two possible solutions, but neither solution is good. This is a good description of where Pilate is at in today’s lesson. Pilate did not want to execute Jesus because He knew Jesus was innocent. But if Pilate refused to execute Jesus, then the Jewish religious leaders threatened to make their case known to Caesar. No matter what Pilate did (release Jesus or execute Jesus), he was not going to be happy with the outcome.

IT IS FINISHED

Jesus’ death fulfilled numerous prophecies from Scripture. Illustrate this by writing many of the prophecies connected with Jesus’ death on the board or a poster board before class. During the lesson, place a check mark or sticker by each prophecy after you describe how Jesus fulfilled it. When every box is checked off or filled, talk about how Jesus finished His mission.



INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY

In the United States, you are treated as innocent until proven guilty. However, Jesus was not afforded the same rights as a U.S. citizen. The religious leaders claimed He was guilty of blasphemy and rebellion against Rome, even though there was no credible evidence to back up their claims. Have you ever been wrongly accused of something? How did you feel? How did you respond? How did Jesus respond in today’s lesson? It is good and right for us to demonstrate our innocence when falsely accused, but Jesus allowed the religious leaders to accuse him and Pilate to condemn Him in order to finish God’s plan. Jesus, the innocent, suffered and died so that we, the guilty, might be forgiven and accepted by God.



EASTER LESSON 2

The resurrection of the Son of God

JOHN 20:1-31



Jesus is the risen Lord.



“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus rose from the dead.
2. Jesus' resurrection shows He is the Messiah, the Son, and God.
3. Because Jesus is alive, He sends His followers on a mission.
4. Because Jesus is alive, He is able to bring us to God in peace and joy.
5. Because Jesus is alive, we can trust Him to give us life.

Objectives

1. State that Jesus' tomb was empty and count how many times Jesus appeared.
2. Compare Thomas' confession (20:28) to the point of John's gospel (20:31).
3. Compare a Christian's mission to Christ's mission.
4. Describe the way Jesus talked about the disciples and their relationship to God.
5. Define what it means to believe.

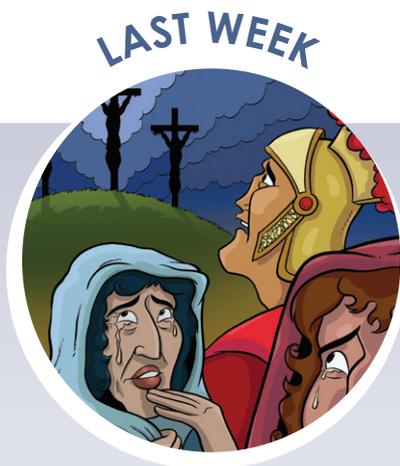


Lesson Summary

On Friday Jesus was buried, and on Sunday Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb. But the stone was gone, and Peter and John went in and saw that there was no body in the tomb. Jesus soon made it clear why the tomb was empty: He was alive, and He appeared to Mary and then twice to the disciples. As the risen Lord, He gave them peace, joy, a new mission, and power to do their mission.

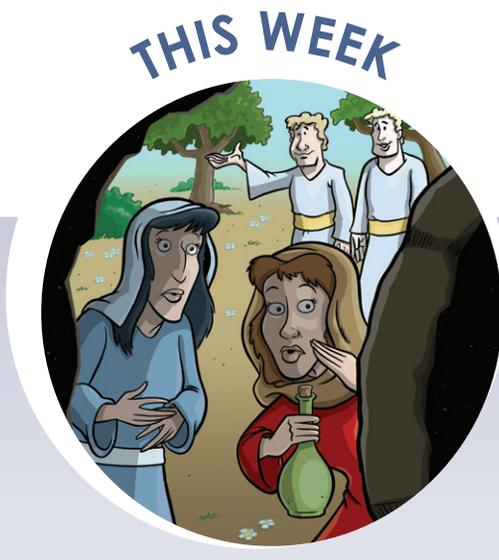
Spotlight on the Gospel

Thomas realized what Jesus' resurrection meant: it meant that Jesus is God and not just a man. He is the true God who brings us to God. Even though we have not seen Him like Thomas did, we have eyewitness testimony recorded for us so that we can believe even without seeing. If we do—if we accept the truth that He is alive and trust Him as our Lord and God—then He will give us life with God forever.



**The crucifixion of the Son
of God**

John 18:28–19:42



**The resurrection of the
Son of God**

John 20:1–31

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is the risen Lord.

Do plastic eggs and chocolate rabbits have anything to do with the first Easter morning? Actually, they do, a little. Eggs symbolize the hope of new life, and rabbits represent the fullness of multiplying life. In a much greater way, new and full life became possible on that first Easter. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He is able to offer new and full life to everyone who believes.

Jesus was not in the tomb (20:1–10)

But that first Easter started with grief, fear, and doubt. Jesus' followers did not yet see that even His death was victory, fulfilling so many prophecies and opening the way for sinners to come back to God. When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, she expected to find a dead body (John 20:1–2). So it is not true when some say that Jesus' followers expected the resurrection so much that they imagined it or made it up. Since they did not expect it at all, they would only say that Jesus rose from the dead if He actually did.

Peter and John did not expect a physical resurrection either, but they couldn't deny the evidence. If robbers had taken the body, they would not have unwrapped it and folded up the head wrapping (20:5–7). These details convinced John that Jesus had risen from the dead (20:8), but he still didn't realize that both Jesus and the Old Testament had

predicted this (John 10:18; 20:9; Mark 8:31; Ps 16:10; 22:15–26; Isa 53:9–10).

Although neither the disciples nor Mary understood it all yet, they were three witnesses that the tomb was strangely empty (Deut 17:6).

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (20:11–18)

Mary was still sad because she was still confused (John 20:11). Her grief shows her deep love for Jesus. She had been devoted to Jesus ever since

Jesus had cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2; Mark 15:40–41). Despite her devotion, she still did not fully comprehend who Jesus really was. Both the angels (John 20:13) and Jesus (20:15) asked Mary if she had good reason to be sad, but she did not grasp their questions. She didn't see yet that this Jesus was much greater than she ever imagined—great enough to conquer death.

This explains why she wanted to cling to Him (20:16–17a): she had lost Him once, and she did not want to lose Him again. But she needed to let go and realize that He was much more than a physical human being. He was God Himself (1:18). He had broken into the world to make the Father known, and now that His mission on earth was done, He needed to ascend back to heaven. He would soon depart from Mary physically, but as God, He would be with her spiritually forever. Also, Mary had to let go so that she could carry out her own mission (20:17b). She had to tell the others that they were now brothers of Jesus, sharing with Jesus the same Father—God Himself. In other words, Mary was sent to say that the way to God is open. His risen life proved that His mission was successful and acceptable to the Father. Through Jesus believers can now come to God as His very own children (Rom 8:15–16; Heb 2:11–12; Ps 22:22).

THINK ABOUT IT
For the first time, Jesus calls the disciples “brothers” (John 20:17).



THINK ABOUT IT

A wrapped and spiced body would be easier and much more pleasant to transport.

Jesus appeared to the disciples without Thomas (20:19–23)

Despite the news, the disciples were still afraid that evening (John 20:19). Jesus came to change that, twice speaking peace to them (20:19–21a). **Peace** is more than *quietness*. It is also *freedom from fear, wholeness of life, well-being, and true prosperity*. The disciples could be *at rest, no longer worrying*, because Jesus' risen life proved that His death was victory. His death justifies sinners so that they can have peace with God (Rom 5:1), and His risen life destroys fear of death (1 Cor 15:55). Imagine the disciples' relief! They had abandoned and

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON



The resurrection of the Son of God • John 20:1–31

denied Jesus a few days earlier, but now Jesus was saying, “Don’t worry. All is forgiven. All is well.” And He proved it: His scars proved He really was Jesus, and they also proved that He really did suffer. His suffering shows that He knows and sympathizes with our pain. Even more, His suffering shows that He bore our pain to give us peace (Isa 53:5). No wonder the disciples’ fear turned into joy!

Now that they had peace with the Father, they could begin their own mission according to Jesus’ own example (John 20:21b). The Father sent Jesus to make the Father known, display His greatness, and bring

people to be with Him forever. This is the calling now of every believer (Matt 5:16; 2 Cor 5:20). Since this is a hard calling and impossible by human effort, God gives believers the power of the Spirit, just as He had given

the Spirit to Jesus (John 1:32). To show this, Jesus breathed on the disciples (20:22). His breath showed that He was alive and that the new covenant—the promise of new life by the Spirit—was coming true (Ezek 37:9–14). By rising again, Jesus proved He has the same power of life as the Father, and therefore also the same authority to send the Spirit (John 14:15–18). This would happen about 50 days later (Acts 2). Now, every believer is equipped by the Spirit to live out his calling (1 Cor 12:4–7, 13).

In addition to the Spirit’s power, God also gave them confidence to complete their mission (John 20:23). Jesus was not saying that humans have authority to forgive sins, since only God can do that (Mark 2:7; Dan 9:9). Instead, He was saying that when they preach that all who believe in Christ are forgiven, they certainly are forgiven. When they preach that all who refuse Christ are condemned, they are certainly condemned. No one will slip through the cracks or

sneak in the back door. Jesus gives all His followers certainty in the gospel, so that they can accomplish their mission with confidence.

Jesus appeared to the disciples with Thomas (20:24–31)

Mary’s grief and the disciples’ fear had been replaced by peace and joy, but Thomas still doubted. He didn’t necessarily doubt more than the others, since he simply wanted the same evidence (John 20:24–25). Eight days later, Jesus gave it to him (20:26). Seeing the evidence, Thomas **believed**. He accepted the truth that Jesus was alive and humbly submitted to Him, gave allegiance to Him, and relied upon Him. In fact, Thomas was the first to express exactly what the resurrection proved: Jesus was in fact the true God, reigning as Lord with power over all (20:28). Jesus did not correct him, for Thomas honored Him exactly as Jesus had said to do (5:23).

We do not get what Thomas got. We have not seen Jesus physically standing right in front of us. But we can still believe. We can believe because eyewitnesses like Thomas saw Him, and because eyewitnesses like John recorded the signs for us (20:30–31). The most important sign of all—the bodily resurrection of Jesus—confirms that the Messiah is in fact the Son of God, the One sent by God but also equally God (1:14). And the resurrection confirms that the Messiah and Son (Ps 2) is in fact the man named Jesus. Whoever believes in Him receives life from the One who has life in Himself. Thus, Jesus did what He came for: in giving us eternal life, He is allowing us to truly know God (John 1:18; 17:3). It is true that we have not seen Him, but we still love Him and trust Him to save our souls (1 Pet 1:8–9).



THINK ABOUT IT

We are ambassadors for Christ, imploring everyone to be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:20).



THINK ABOUT IT

Thomas’ doubt is more evidence that the disciples did not expect or make up Jesus’ resurrection.

Lesson Outline

Jesus is the risen Lord.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus is alive—His empty tomb and three appearances prove it (20:1–29).
2. Jesus is alive—so He brings us to God in peace (20:11–21a).
3. Jesus is alive—so He sends us on a mission (20:21b–23).
4. Jesus is alive—so He is God (20:24–28).
5. Jesus is alive—so He gives life to all who believe (20:29–31).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus was not in the tomb (20:1–10).
 - Mary Magdalene saw the stone was moved (20:1–2).
 - Peter and John entered and saw an empty tomb (20:3–10).
2. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (20:11–18).
 - Mary was sad that someone took Jesus' body (20:11–15).
 - Mary saw Jesus and wanted to keep Him (20:16–17a).
 - Mary was sent to tell the others (20:17b–18).
3. Jesus appeared to the disciples without Thomas (20:19–23).
 - Jesus' appearance brought peace and joy (20:19–21a).
 - Jesus gave them a mission (20:21b).
 - Jesus gave them power and confidence (20:22–23).
4. Jesus appeared to the disciples with Thomas (20:24–31).
 - Thomas wanted to see too (20:24–25).
 - Thomas saw Jesus and believed (20:26–28).
 - We can read, believe, and live even without seeing Jesus (20:29–31).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **Who went to the tomb first?**
Mary Magdalene.
2. **What did Peter and John see in the tomb?**
The cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus.
3. **What word did Jesus use to greet the disciples?**
Peace.
4. **What did Thomas call Jesus when he saw Him?**
My Lord and my God.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **Why was Mary surprised and sad when she saw the tomb?**
The stone was rolled away. She thought someone moved Jesus' body.
2. **Why was Mary still sad after seeing the angels?**
She still didn't realize that Jesus was God and able to rise from the dead.
3. **What did Jesus call His disciples?**
My brothers. They could now have a relationship with God as their Father.
4. **How is a Christian's mission like Jesus' mission?**
Both are sent to make God known and bring people to God by humbly obeying to the point of death.
5. **Why did Jesus breathe and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit"?**
By breathing, He showed that He was alive and had the power of God to give them life and power in the Spirit.
6. **Besides the Spirit, what else does Jesus give to help His followers do their job?**
He gives them confidence that their message of forgiveness is absolutely true.
7. **Why can we believe even without seeing Jesus?**
Because eye-witnesses recorded the signs—especially His resurrection—for us to believe.
8. **If we believe that the Messiah and Son is Jesus, what will He give us?**
Eternal life, which is to live with and know God forever (John 17:3).

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

PEACE WITH GOD

Bring a boxing glove to class. If you can't find a boxing glove, just clench your hands into fists. Have the children do the same. Explain that every person is born God's enemy because of sin. But Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave to give us peace with God (Rom 5:1). Open your hands and have the children do the same. Next, begin shaking hands with the children, showing them that the battle is over. In today's lesson, Jesus rises from the grave and speaks peace to His disciples, showing that He is able to make God's enemies His children.

ALIVE AGAIN

Bring in some dead insects. Let the children inspect them. Ask if the insects are dead. Ask if the children think the insects can come alive again. Explain that dead things and dead people don't just come alive again. But there is one person who did: Jesus!



ILLUSTRATE

COUNT WITH ME

Jesus appears to His followers three times in today's lesson (20:14–17, 19–23, 26–29), proving that He is God and showing that the Father accepted His payment for sin. Have the children number each appearance of Jesus during the lesson by raising their hands and using their fingers to identify which appearance you're describing.

FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE

Jesus gave His disciples the same mission His Father had given Him: to make the Father known, display His greatness, and bring people to be with Him forever. This is the calling now of every believer. Illustrate this by having the children copy everything you do and say for the next minute. The disciples were to follow Jesus' example, doing just as He had done.



APPLY

HE IS RISEN

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet/Foam coffee cup, craft page, crayons, brad, tape.

Directions: Color the coffee cup to make it looks like a tomb. Cut a little piece to have an entrance into the tomb. Cut a circle from a brown/grey copy paper to make the rolling stone. Connect the stone to the cup with a brad. Tape inside the tomb the rectangular "He is Risen".



He Is Risen
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

The resurrection of the Son of God • John 20:1–31



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

THAT FIRST EASTER MORNING

Bring some colored, plastic eggs and chocolate rabbits to class. Ask the children if any of them received any of these this morning. Do these have anything to do with the first Easter morning? Explain that they do, but only a little. Eggs symbolize the hope of new life, and rabbits represent the fullness of multiplying life. Yet eggs and rabbits are nothing compared to the living hope of that first Easter. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He is able to offer new and full life to everyone who believes.

NOW WHERE DID I PUT THAT?

Have the children ever lost something? Did that make them feel sad? Tell the class about a time you lost something important and how you felt. In today's lesson, Mary Magdalene is sad because when she arrives at Jesus' tomb the stone is rolled away and Jesus' body is missing. Was Jesus' body lost? No! Even though Jesus' body was not there, He was not lost. He had risen from the grave and would soon appear to Mary and the disciples.



ILLUSTRATE

MY BROTHERS

Did you know that every Christian has a brother? How can this be? Do the children know any Christians that don't appear to have a brother? Explain that every Christian has a brother because when a person trusts Jesus for salvation, Jesus becomes his brother (John 20:17). Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are able to become part of God's family.

HE BREATHED ON THEM

Illustrate Jesus breathing on the disciples (John 20:22) by spraying a fine mist of water on the children from a spray bottle.



APPLY

RESURRECTION SCENE

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet, crayon, brad, paper bag, tape, scissors, paper plate.

Directions: Cut in half the paper plate and color it as a tomb. Cut a circle to make the entrance of the tomb. Tape the two sides of the tomb. Color, cut and tape the angel at the tomb. Use the paper bag to do the rolling stone and connect to the tomb with a brad. (You can also write inside the tomb "He is risen" or "It is empty".)

Resurrection Scene
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

ONLY ONE

List a variety of the most important people in all of history. Ask the children if they know who each one is. Ask them if any of these important people is able to give them eternal life. Why not? Because they all died (and stayed dead), they do not have the power of life. Our story today shows that Jesus does have life in Himself. Because Jesus did not stay dead, we can trust Jesus for eternal life.

WHO AM I?

Using the internet and a mobile phone, tablet, or computer, play a number of recordings of well-known people speaking or singing. Can the children recognize who they are just by their voices? In today's lesson, we're going to learn about a voice that made all the difference: the voice of Jesus after He rose from the dead. While Mary was unable to immediately recognize Jesus after He rose from the dead, she immediately knew who He was when she heard His voice.



ILLUSTRATE

LET GO!

Have the children ever seen a young child cling to their parent's leg? No matter what the parent did, the child would not let go! Sometimes this can be funny to watch, but it teaches us something about the child's relationship with their parent: they desperately love them and do not want to be separated from them. Mary does something similar in today's lesson, showing her deep affection for and desire to be near Jesus.

ALL ACCESS PASS

Bring or show a picture of an all access pass. Have the children ever been given a pass like this? This type of pass gives full access to an event, such as a concert. While most people are not allowed backstage at a concert, someone with an all access pass would be able to go there. Use this pass to illustrate the access we have to God through Jesus' death and resurrection.



APPLY

WHY ONLY THEM?

Did you know that Jesus only appeared to believers (John 14:19; 16:16, 22)? Why only them? Why not to unbelievers? Wouldn't His appearance have convinced many to trust Him as Lord and Savior? Jesus didn't appear to unbelievers because His appearance would not have convinced them of His deity, just as His miracles had not (Luke 16:31). Jesus appeared to His own in order to strengthen their faith and prepare them to be witnesses of His glory.