



The Resurrection: New Life

Lesson Aim: To understand the resurrection and its importance.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 20:1-18

What He has done: God raised Jesus from the dead.

Key Verse: John 20:18

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 16:9-10

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:6-10	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know the Holy Spirit can lead us.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:12-15	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.
14	Paul and Silas in Prison, Acts 16:22-34	God freed Paul and Silas from prison and saved the jailer and his family.	For believers to praise God everywhere, every day.
15	The Resurrection: New Life, John 20:1-18	God raised Jesus from the dead.	To understand the resurrection and its importance.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-3, 9-11, 26	God gave Paul friends who worked, served, and taught with Him.	To know God gives us opportunities to serve Him together.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for us. Thank You, Father God, for raising Jesus from the dead. Help the children understand and celebrate who You are and what You have done! Amen."

About this lesson: This lesson may be taught on Easter or adapted at any time to review the importance of the resurrection of Christ.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: New Life Egg Hunt	Hollow plastic eggs in several colors (five eggs of each color are needed), baskets or bags, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Whatever Is True" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" "I Praise You" "For God So Loved the World" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Every Move I Make" "Here I Am to Worship" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: John 11:25-26	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 15 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
		Read the Word: John 20:1-18	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WORD	Up to 10		
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Psalm 16:9-10	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Messenger Egg (See the GOT TIME? MESSENGER EGGS activity), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Whatever Is True," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: New Life Easter Treats	Egg-shaped snack, such as chocolate or cookies
	Up to 10	Activity: Messenger Eggs	See supplies in GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Craft: Paul's Letter Keeper	Hole punch, markers or crayons, glue, notebook paper, envelopes, star sticker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Signs of Philippians 4:8	Ten large, sturdy sheets of paper or cardboard, marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Up and Down Bible Verse	Beach ball, permanent marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite way to celebrate Easter?

GAME: NEW LIFE EGG HUNT

Purpose: Children will discover how the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse can describe the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Supplies: Hollow plastic eggs in several colors (five eggs of each color are needed), baskets or bags, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. Print a copy of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse for each team of 3-4 children. For each team, cut the verse into the following sections and put each section into an egg of the same color. Hide the eggs.

Whatever is true/whatever is noble/whatever is right/whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable/if anything is excellent, or praiseworthy/think about such things. Philippians 4:8

Option: If plastic hollow eggs are not available, print each section of the verse on egg-shaped, colored paper cut-outs.

Today, we will learn about resurrection—that means to raise from the dead. On what special holiday do we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead? (Easter.) Children in many places celebrate Easter by enjoying an egg hunt. Let's hunt for eggs right now! These eggs are special because they have a message inside for you to put in order.

Directions:

1. Form teams of three or four children.
2. Assign an egg color to each team.
3. Give a basket or bag to each team.
4. Each team hunts for their assigned egg color (five eggs per team).
5. After a team finds all five of their eggs, they must put the Bible Memory Verse in order. Teams may look at the Bible Memory Verse poster for help.
6. The goal is to be the first team to put the Bible Memory Verse in correct order.

On Easter, we celebrate a true event that is the most noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy event that ever happened! We celebrate that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and was raised from the dead three days later.

What is one example of new life that hatches from eggs? (Baby birds or chicks.) We hid the Bible Memory Verse in eggs because eggs remind us of new life. Let's find out how Jesus gives us new life!

Small class? Divide the verse into even smaller sections to create more eggs. Hide only one set and have all of the children work together to find the eggs and put the verse in order.

Limited space? Pass out the eggs. On your signal, children match same colored eggs to find their team. Each team then races to put the verse in order first.



The God who saves us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Seven Stars of Lent: If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org. Go to Other Resources. Click on The Seven Stars of Lent and choose one star for each week during Lent.



Today, we worship the God who saves us. By giving His life on the cross, Jesus paid for all our sins. He made the way for us to be forgiven and close to God forever. Jesus saves all who believe in Him from their sins and from a life separated from God. Three days after Jesus died and was buried in a tomb, God raised Him to life! This is called the resurrection, which means being raised from the dead. The Bible promises we will be saved if we confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. Read John 11:25-26.



Every Easter, believers all over the world give thanks to Jesus for giving His life to save us from our sins. We celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive and that one day we will get to see Him. His resurrection gives life forever close to God to all who believe in Jesus. Let's celebrate by giving our money offering to God. Sing: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" while collecting the offering.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 15.



Sing: "For God So Loved the World." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus' resurrection.



God raised Jesus from the dead

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns when they were locked in the prison cell. When the earthquake came, the prisoners stayed so the jailer would not get in trouble. What did the jailer and his whole family do that night? (They believed in Jesus and were baptized.) For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Today, we will read about the good news that Paul said was of first importance: Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and on the third day God raised Jesus to life. That is called the resurrection. It all happened in Jerusalem. If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel. **We celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter. Let's read what happened on that first Easter.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: John 20:1-18.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read John 20:1-18.



Understanding the resurrection

THE WAY

Today's story tells us what happened three days after Jesus died. How did Jesus die? (On a cross.) **After His body was laid in the tomb, a large heavy stone was used to seal the entrance. No one could come in or out. What happened to that stone?** (It was removed from the entrance.) **Who do you think removed the stone?** (Children respond.) **In the Bible, Matthew explains that an angel came down from heaven and rolled back the stone.** (Matthew 28:2.)

At first, Mary didn't understand Jesus had risen. What did she think had happened? (Mary thought someone had taken Jesus' body.) **What did Mary do?** (She ran and told Peter and John.) **When Peter and John ran to the empty tomb, what did they see?** (They saw Jesus was not there. They saw His folded burial cloths.) **After Peter and John went home, who did Mary see seated in the tomb?** (Two angels.) **At first when Jesus spoke to Mary, she didn't realize it was Him because she had seen Him die and be buried. Who did she think He was?** (The gardener.) **Then, when Jesus said Mary's name, she knew it was Him. Jesus told her to go tell the others. What did Mary say when she saw the disciples?** ("I have seen the Lord!")

The story of Jesus dying and rising from the dead is called the Easter story. It is a true story. In your own words, who would like to tell us what happened on the first Easter? (Children take turns.) **What is your favorite part of the Easter story?** (Children respond.)

At Easter, believers do two things: we give thanks and we celebrate good news. We give thanks to Jesus for giving His life on the cross to save us from our sins. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. Jesus always knew He would die on a cross to pay for our sins. That's why He came to earth.

We celebrate the good news that God raised Jesus from the dead. Rising from the dead is called resurrection. When Jesus rose from the dead, it showed He won the victory over death. Jesus now lives forever! All who believe in Jesus are forgiven and given a new life forever close to God. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, one day all who believe in Him will be raised from the dead to live forever with Jesus in heaven. That's good news. Let's take a moment of silence to thank Jesus for dying for us, and thank God the Father for raising Jesus from the dead. Brief silence for prayer.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

1000 years before God raised Jesus from the dead, David foretold that God would not let His Holy One stay in the grave. God's Holy One is His Son Jesus. Let's see what David wrote.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 16:9-10. Let's find this scripture. Read Psalm 16:9-10.

Like David, we can all rejoice because God truly raised His Holy One, Jesus, from the dead!

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Messenger Egg. See the MESSENGER EGGS game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. Hold up a sample as you explain the symbols. **The symbols remind us that Jesus died (cross), was buried (white cloth), rose again (stone), made a way for us to be close to God (crimson cloth), and gives us new life (egg). Just as Paul told his friends in Corinth about the first Easter, you can show your friends the symbols in your Messenger Egg and tell them why Easter is so important to believers.**

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 15 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus showing Mary He was alive.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Whatever Is True," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: NEW LIFE EASTER TREATS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Egg-shaped snack, such as chocolate or cookies

Why do we use eggs to celebrate Easter? (They remind us of the new life Jesus gives us.) **Some new life comes from an egg, like a baby bird or a chick. Let's eat our egg-shaped snack and talk about our favorite "new life."** (For example: babies, chicks, puppies, kittens, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **"What is your favorite new life? You can tell us about a baby you know or your favorite baby animal."**

ACTIVITY: MESSENGER EGGS

Purpose: Children will assemble plastic eggs filled with items they can use to tell others about the true meaning of Easter.

Supplies: Hollow plastic eggs, crosses (small wooden cross, 2 pipe cleaner pieces twisted into a cross shape, or cross-shaped erasers), temple curtains (1-inch piece of crimson cloth or ribbon), burial clothes (1-inch piece of white cloth or ribbon scented with frankincense and myrrh oil), stones (pebbles)

Prepare: Place piles of crosses, temple curtains, burial cloths, stones and plastic eggs in a line on a table so children can easily fill their eggs.

Paul told the Good News about Jesus death and resurrection to many people! You can too! Let's make a special Easter Egg filled with objects that you can use to tell a friend the Good News about Jesus.

Directions:

1. Allow children to select each object as you use the guide below to lead the discussion.
 - **CROSS:** Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and erased forever!
 - **PIECE OF TEMPLE CURTAIN:** The crimson temple curtain showed we were separated from God. When Jesus died, it tore from top to bottom.
 - **PIECE OF SCENTED WHITE LINEN CLOTH:** Jesus' body was wrapped in a burial cloth sprinkled with spices. Smell the frankincense and myrrh on your cloth.
 - **STONE:** The angel rolled the big stone away from the tomb entrance and said, "He has risen, just as He said He would."
 - **EGG:** New life. Anyone who believes in Jesus has a new life forever with Him.
2. Repeat for each object.
3. Children place the objects in their eggs.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PAUL'S LETTER KEEPER

Purpose: To create a collection of verses from Paul's letters as the children learn of Paul's travels and his writings.

Supplies: Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, assorted craft items, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: For any children who did not begin the craft in Lesson 12, provide materials for a cover (See lesson 12.) and a Map of Paul's second missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear friends in Corinth,
"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried,
that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Your friend, Paul**

Teacher Tip: This craft is designed to continue through Units 3-4 (Lesson 12-21). For each lesson, children add a new letter to their Letter Keeper. They can take their Letter Keeper home and bring it back for each lesson, or the teacher can collect them after each lesson and give them their completed Letter Keepers at the end of Unit 4.

Option: Each of Paul's letters in the Letter Keeper craft can be created as an individual craft instead of part of a collection.

Paul started many churches while on his journeys. He also returned to visit the same churches many times. He wrote letters to help them know how to love God and follow Jesus. We can find many of Paul's letters in the New Testament of the Bible. Let's imagine we are helping Paul collect copies of his letters. With each story we learn, we will mark on a map where Paul was on his journey and add an envelope containing one of his messages.

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians telling them about Jesus' resurrection—His rising from the dead. Paul visited Corinth during his second and third missionary journeys. He wrote the first letter to his Corinthian friends while he was staying in Ephesus on his third journey. Let's add part of Paul's letter to our Letter Keepers.

Directions:

1. Copy the words of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper with a picture of what you think life forever with God will be like.
2. Address the envelope to "The Church at Corinth." Write "From Paul in Ephesus" as the return address.
3. Punch holes in the envelope to match the holes in your Letter Keeper.
4. Unclasp the binding of your Letter Keeper. Add the new envelope and re-clasp.
5. Place the verse from Corinth inside the envelope.
6. Place a star sticker on the region of Corinth to show where Paul sent this letter.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

GAME: THE SIGNS OF PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, marker

Prepare: Create 10 signs by writing each phrase of the Bible Memory Verse (below) on a sheet of paper.

Teacher Tip: For added fun, mix the signs and have the children work together to stand in line in order.

Directions:

1. Have 10 children stand in front of the class. (Smaller classes may give children more than one sign.) Give each child a sign, keeping the signs in order.
2. Starting at the beginning of the verse, have each child lift up his or her sign as the class repeats the words on the sign. Ask children to respond to the questions below:

Whatever is true,	What is something that is true about God?
Whatever is noble,	Noble means respectable. Who do you respect?
Whatever is right,	What is something you know is right?
Whatever is pure,	Pure means without sin. What is a pure thought or action that is right in God's eyes?
Whatever is lovely,	What is something that is beautiful?
Whatever is admirable—	Who is someone you admire or respect?
If anything is excellent	What is something excellent about God?
Or praiseworthy—	What is something so good, it is worth praising God for?
Think about such things.	
Philippians 4:8	
3. **All of the good things that you listed come from God. When we think about those things, they help us love and obey God!**

GAME: UP AND DOWN BIBLE VERSE

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beach ball or sturdy paper, permanent marker

Prepare: Write the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse on a ball (or sturdy paper if a ball is not available) in list form using the same ten phrases as listed in the above game. Number the phrases in order, 1-10.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line, one behind the other. Give the ball to the first child in line.
2. First child recites the first phrase from memory or reads it from the ball, then passes the ball between his or her legs to the second child.
3. Second child says the next phrase, then passes the ball over his or her head to the third child.
4. Children continue saying the phrases and passing the ball, alternately through the legs and over the head until the ball reaches the end of the line. If the verse ends before the end of the line, repeat the verse.
5. As a challenge, repeat the game passing the ball and reciting the verse faster and faster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 50 A.D.) On Paul's second missionary journey, God gave him a vision about a man from Macedonia. What was the man begging Paul to do? (To come and help them.) Paul, Silas, and Timothy got ready to go to Macedonia right away. They knew the Holy Spirit was leading them to tell the Macedonians about Jesus.

Paul and Lydia (Circa 51-53 A.D.) Continuing on his second missionary journey, Paul went with Silas and Timothy to Philippi. There, God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message. What did Lydia do in response to Paul's message? (She was baptized. She invited them to stay at her home.)

Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 51-53 A.D.) After staying in Lydia's home, Paul and Silas were unfairly thrown into jail. What did the other prisoners hear them doing that night in the prison? (Praying and singing hymns.) After God sent the earthquake, the prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed. Paul told the jailer about Jesus. What happened to the jailer? (He and his family believed and were baptized.)

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-31 are not available. On the Bible Timeline for Lesson 1-31, the events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible.
2. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 1-31:

Acts – Revelation: Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes > Peter and the Lame Man > The Stoning of Stephen > Philip and the Ethiopian > God Changes Saul's Heart > Saul Escapes from Damascus > Peter and Tabitha > Peter Visits Cornelius > Peter Escapes from Prison > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-48 A.D.) > Peter Visits Macedonia (Circa 50 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 54-58 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 58 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 61-63 A.D.) > New Testament Letters

Note: You may choose to add a card labeled Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.) to your timeline.

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.