



The Resurrection: New Life

Lesson Aim: To understand the resurrection and its relevance today.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

What He Has Done: God raised Jesus from the dead.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:21

Christ Connection: Psalm 16:9-11; Job 19:25-27

THE WAY

The Big Question: What difference does the resurrection make for believers today?

UNIT 3 FOCUS VERSE

"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 3:8-9

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim*
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:25; John 16:7-15	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know the Holy Spirit can lead us in specific ways.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:12-15; Ephesians 2:8-9	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.
14	Paul, Silas, and the Jailer Acts 16:22-34; 1 Peter 3:13-18	God used Paul, Silas, and an earthquake to spread the gospel.	To know God uses all things in the spreading of the gospel.
15	The Resurrection: New Life, Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58	God raised Jesus from the dead.	To understand the resurrection and its relevance today.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-6, 9-11, 24-26; Romans 16:3-5; 12:4-8	God brought Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila together to build up the church.	To see how God gives us different key roles in the community of believers.

LEADER'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 students understand and celebrate who You are and what You have done. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.

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Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 15 ~ Ages 12-14 ~ Page 1 of 6



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as old and new, resurrection, or eyewitnesses.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: EASTER EGG END ZONE

Purpose: To introduce the lesson aim.

Supplies: 10-15 plastic colored Easter eggs per student*, 1 large Easter basket per team, 2 paper cups per team, large paper or white board with marker, floor tape, timer

Preparation: On a large paper or white board, list each egg color and assign a value to each color (eg., blue = 10, red = 5, black = 2). Hide the list until after the game is played.

*If you do not have access to Easter eggs or baskets, use jelly beans, balls, beanbags, or other items. If they aren't different colors, mark the items with different letters or symbols that can be assigned a value.

Directions:

1. At opposite ends of the play area, mark an end zone and a throwing zone with floor tape. The two ends should be far enough apart to make catching a challenge.
2. Divide students into 2 or more teams.
3. Each team assigns 2 catchers who stand in the "end zone." Give each catcher a paper cup and their team's Easter basket. The basket sits behind them during the game.
4. The rest of the students each receive 10-15 eggs and stand with their teams in the "throwing zone."
5. Let students know each color egg has a different value which will be revealed after the game.
6. Set a 5 minute timer. On your signal, throwers take turns tossing their eggs to a team catcher. The catchers must try to catch the eggs in their cup, but they can only touch the cup, not the egg.
7. When an egg is caught, the catcher places it in the team Easter basket.
8. Eggs that aren't caught can be collected and returned to that team.
9. At the end of the 5 minutes, reveal the list of point values and have teams total the points in their Easter baskets. The team with the most points wins.
10. Discussion questions: How many of you guessed that the _____ colored egg was the most valuable? Why? How did knowing the eggs had different values affect how you played? Sometimes we forget or underestimate the importance of Jesus' resurrection. Why? Why is the resurrection important?

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: OLD AND NEW

Purpose: To show students how Jesus' death and resurrection brings us new life.

Supplies: 2 sets of 5 old things (e.g. empty bottle of water, half-bag of chips, torn t-shirt, worn book, beat-up shoes), 2 sets of 5 new things (e.g. new bottle of water, blank notepad, unwrapped candy bar, new item with a price tag, a fresh flower), 4 boxes (or large baskets), 2 large baskets, 2 blindfolds, 2 chairs

Preparation: Label two boxes "OLD" and the other two "NEW." Place a set of 5 old things in each "OLD" box and 5 new things in each "NEW" box.

When Jesus gave His life for you, that is exactly what He did—He separated the old life from the new life. Let's see how we can do separating the old from the new.

Directions:

1. Ask for 4 volunteers. Two students will be blindfolded and the other two will be helpers.
2. Seat 2 students each in front of an "OLD" box and a "NEW" box. Blindfold both students.
3. Give each helper a basket of old and new things. On your signal, helpers hand their blindfolded teammate one item. The blindfolded students decide if the item is old or new and place it in that box.
4. When both teams have placed their 10 items in the boxes, the students may remove their blindfold.
5. Teams get 1 point for each correctly placed item. The team with the most points wins.



The God who saves us

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship The God who saves us. By giving His life on the cross, Jesus paid for all our sins. He saved all who believe in Him from their sins and from a life separated from God. He made the way for us to be forgiven and close to God forever.

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 Unit 3 Focus Verse: 1 Peter 3:8-9.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on the God who saves us.



Read John 11:25-26.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Paul explains the resurrection

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

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. Later that night, the jailer and his family came to believe in Jesus and were baptized. 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. Let's read what happened on that first Easter.

The leader or a student reads 1 Corinthians 15:3-6.

- Paul said the following four events were of first importance: Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and His appearances after His resurrection.
- If time allows, read aloud the eyewitness accounts of these four important events:

HIS DEATH – LUKE 23:33, 44-46

HIS BURIAL - MATTHEW 27:59-61, 65-66

HIS RESURRECTION - MATTHEW 28:1-7

HIS APPEARANCES AFTER RESURRECTION - JOHN 20:18-20

- All four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) report eyewitness accounts of Jesus' death and burial. His burial confirms His death. His death is the payment in full for the sins of the world. This was God's forgiveness plan—that His Son would pay for our sins, so that anyone who believed in Him would be completely forgiven, made right with God, and given eternal life in His presence.
- Jesus always knew He would die on a cross to pay for our sins. That's why He came to earth.
- Jesus could have used His power to avoid death, but that would have meant we would all die as sinners with no hope of eternal life close with God.
- Jesus is called "Savior" because He saves all who believe in Him from a life separated from God.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

The leader or a student reads Matthew 28:1-7* and 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

*If you already read Matthew 28:1-7, you may skip it or review it here.

- Resurrection refers to the rising of Jesus from the tomb after his death. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and appeared to friends, disciples, and others. Each gospel describes different details regarding Jesus' appearances.
- Jesus' appearance to numerous people after His resurrection is a key factor in proving He was raised to life.
- The resurrection is important to believers because it shows Jesus won the victory over death. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, all who believe in Him will be raised from the dead to live forever in heaven with Him. The promise of the resurrection of believers would be impossible to believe if Jesus Himself had not been resurrected.

The leader or a student reads 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 55-58.

- Life forever close to God is called eternal life. It starts here on earth the moment we believe in Jesus and lasts past the time when our bodies die. Our soul is the part of us that never dies. For believers, our souls will go to be with Jesus. We will live forever close to God. It will be more wonderful than anyone can imagine!



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- Paul knew Jesus' death and resurrection fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies. 1,000 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. Then, David spoke about eternal life.
 - The leader or a student reads aloud Psalm 16:9-11.
- Long before David lived, Job explained how even if our physical body dies, our soul will see God face to face!
 - The leader or a student reads aloud Job 19:25-27.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

What difference does the resurrection make for believers today?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58 silently or aloud.

**If you were with the women who came to the tomb, how would you have reacted?
How would you have felt?**

Which four events did Paul say were of first importance (Matthew 28:1-7)? Why are each of these events (Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and His appearances after His resurrection) important?

According to the Scriptures, why did Jesus die (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)?

What is the connection between Adam and Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)?

What does it mean in 1 Corinthians 15:51 that "We will not all sleep ..."?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What difference does the resurrection make for believers today?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

How would you explain Jesus' resurrection to a friend?

What difference does the resurrection make for believers today?

Why do you think it is so hard for people today to believe what happened to Jesus?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to tell others about the resurrection SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #15 and Journal Entry #15. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #15.

PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #15

The Resurrection: New Life

Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58.**
- **Read Luke 23:33, 44-46.** In your own words, describe Jesus' death.
- **Read Matthew 27:59-61, 65-66.** In your own words, describe Jesus' burial.
- **Read Matthew 28:1-7.** In your own words, describe Jesus' resurrection.
- **Read John 20:18-20.** Who were some of the people who saw the risen Jesus?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Why is it so important that there were eyewitnesses to Jesus' death and burial?
- Why is it important to know Jesus appeared to others after His resurrection?
- Who gives us victory? How? (1 Cor 15:57)

WHAT CAN I DO?

- What difference does the resurrection make for believers today?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus affect your life? How does it give you hope and strength to overcome life's challenges?
- Write down how would you explain the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection to a friend.

Action Card #15/P&P

THE RESURRECTION: NEW LIFE

MATTHEW 28:1-7;
1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58

**PAUL EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE *RESURRECTION*.**

**WE ARE CALLED TO TELL OTHERS
ABOUT THE *RESURRECTION*.**

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