



JESUS' RESURRECTION

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

Memory Verse

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." - Matthew 28:6

Context/Background

The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event for Christians, as it marks God's triumph over death and the fulfillment of His plan for humanity. The foundation of this belief lies in Jesus' crucifixion, a historical event marked by immense suffering and sacrifice. According to Christian teachings, Jesus willingly underwent crucifixion to atone for the sins of humanity, bridging the gap between a holy God and a fallen world. His death is seen as the ultimate act of love and reconciliation, bearing the weight of human transgressions.

The resurrection, occurring on the third day after his crucifixion, signifies God's victory over sin and death. It transforms the narrative from one of sorrow and loss to joy and hope. The empty tomb serves as a powerful symbol, signifying not only the physical resurrection of Jesus but also the promise of eternal life for those who believe. The resurrection is not merely a historical event; it's a cornerstone of Christian faith, shaping believers' understanding of salvation, forgiveness, and the transformative power of God's grace. The celebration of Easter, rooted in the resurrection, is a joyous affirmation of these profound theological truths and a source of inspiration for countless Christians worldwide.

Summary

Mary Magdalene and other women go to the tomb on the third day after Jesus' crucifixion. They find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Angels appear to the women, telling them that Jesus is not there; He has risen, just as He said. The angels instruct the women to go and tell the disciples about the resurrection.

Mary Magdalene encounters Jesus near the tomb but initially doesn't recognize Him. Jesus reveals Himself to her, and she recognizes Him.

The women go to the disciples and share the news of the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection.

Two disciples, Cleopas and another, encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus. They don't recognize Him at first, but Jesus reveals Himself during a meal.

Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room in Jerusalem. Thomas, initially sceptical, later declares, "My Lord and my God!" upon seeing Jesus' wounds.

Relevance/Application **Themes: Love, Forgiveness, Hope**

Younger students:

- Jesus rose from the dead. Even though he died on Good Friday, he came alive again through God's power.

- Because Jesus beat death and the devil, we don't need be afraid because we can trust Jesus, who is with us everywhere we go. We will live in heaven with him forever when we die.
- Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for all who believe in him.
- The good news of Easter is a reason to celebrate!

Older students:

- The Bible says that Jesus Christ is "declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead." (Romans 1:4) This is the meaning of the resurrection—that Jesus Christ is God, and everything He said is true. Our Christian faith rests upon His resurrection, and our faith is not in vain.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ means is that God has fully accepted His death on the Cross as the payment for our sins. Jesus said, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28) He did give His life in payment for our sins, and the resurrection shows us that God has fully accepted that payment, and that our sins are forgiven.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that our bodies will be raised one day. Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also." (John 14:19) Because of the resurrection, death need hold no fear for Christians. Those who have received Christ have everlasting life, and no power in the universe can take that life from them. For Christians, death is not the end of life but rather the gateway into real life.
- The Gospel is good news, and the good news is that God's Son died for our sins and rose again the third day to be our living Saviour.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Beliefs Key Idea 2: The person and work of Jesus the Christ is central to Christianity
Christian Beliefs Key Idea 3: A Christian worldview is shaped by the biblical teaching of sin and grace

Catechism Connections

The Second Article of the Apostles Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day, he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The soldiers made sure that Jesus was really dead before he was taken down from the cross. Jesus' friends put his dead body in a tomb. It looked as though death had beaten even someone as great and powerful as Jesus, the Son of God.
 But on the third day Jesus rose again from the dead. Death could not keep Jesus in its power. Jesus proved that he is stronger than death. Now we can be sure that he has saved us from sin and death.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

- Early Years
- Have you ever had a surprise? Was it a good surprise or a bad surprise?
 - Do you think the women who went to Jesus' tomb had a bad surprise or a good one?
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Primary

- Tell about a time you felt very surprised.
- Imagine that you were one of the women who went to the tomb the first Easter morning. How do you think you would have felt?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has risen and is alive?

Secondary

- What were the women expecting to find in the tomb that Sunday morning?
- What clues were there that Jesus rose from the dead?
- What song or music best represents your thoughts, feelings or response to Jesus' resurrection?

Images or objects to spark discussion

- An empty tomb (cardboard cut-out, with a white sheet covering the entrance and a light shining behind)



Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Creative Storytelling: This is a great opportunity to act out the events of the first Easter Sunday.

Tracts and Other Resources

[Lutheran Tract Mission](#) has lots of Easter resources, including an Easter story leaflet and accompanying activity booklets.

GROW Ministries

[GIFT Lent](#) – a downloadable kit with many activities and worship ideas for Lent and Easter.



Audio Stories/Podcasts

Bible.is - <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bible-resources/bible-is>
Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. All four gospels also available in film versions, searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Kids Corner – Bible Stories – [The Resurrection](#)

Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary

[Jesus' sacrifice \(Saddleback Kids\)](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[God's wonderful surprise \(Jesus Storybook Bible\)](#)

[The Resurrection of Jesus \(Bible Bricks\)](#)

Secondary/Staff

[Excerpt from the movie 'Son of God'](#)

[The resurrection of Jesus \(Bible Project\)](#)

Invocation

L: Christ is Risen.
He Is Risen indeed.

L: Indeed Christ is alive and is here with us.
In the name of the Father
Who loves us

L: In the name of the Son
Who conquered death

L: And in the name of the Holy Spirit.
Who makes the good news of Easter known.

Amen

Prayers

Prayer

Lord Jesus You have won the victory over sin.

Make our faith strong so that we are sure that our sins are truly forgiven.

Lord Jesus You have won the victory over death.

Help us not to be scared of dying.

Help us to trust your promise that you will take us to heaven and give us eternal life.

Lord Jesus You have won the victory over the devil.

Help us to believe that You are always with us, keeping us safe from harm and danger.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the glad news of Easter.

Make us glad that we share in your victory and help us each day to live for You.
In Jesus' name. **Amen**

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. **Amen.**

Jesus, we worship you as our risen Lord,
help us to listen to you and do what you ask.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for Easter's story,
Jesus rose, and He is our glory.
Bless this meal, our friends, and play,
Happy hearts on this Easter day.
Amen!

Risen Lord Jesus,
Come to us this day.
Bless our food, share our table,
and accept our thanks. Amen.

Blessing

May the joy of Easter fill your hearts as you leave this place. May the victory of the empty tomb remind you that God's love triumphs over all. As you go, carry the hope and resurrection power of Christ with you. Amen.

May the good news of Jesus' resurrection fill you with love, joy, peace and hope.

Encourage participants to bless each other, using the following words (or you can make up your own).

(Name), may the risen Jesus replace your fears with joy, and raise you to new life with him.

Music

[Super Saviour to the rescue \(Colin Buchannon\)](#)

[Victory \(Hillsong United\)](#)

[My Redeemer Lives \(Hillsong\)](#)

[O Happy Day \(Tim Hughes\)](#)

[God's not dead \(Newsboys\)](#)

[Glorious Day \(Casting Crowns\)](#)

[Jesus Christ is Risen today \(Hymn – modern version: NCC Worship\)](#)

[Death was arrested \(Northpoint Worship\)](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Butterflies - make symbols of new life to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Gather paper coffee filters and prepare paint by mixing small amounts of food colouring and water. Use cotton swabs as paint brushes; dip these in the coloured water and paint the coffee filters. When dry, form these into butterflies by gathering the coffee filters in the middle and wrapping half of a black pipe cleaner around them.
- Update your resurrection garden (see Good Friday resource) – roll away the stone from the tomb. You might like to add the figures of the angel, the sleeping guards and the women, or decorate with flowers and butterflies. Take the black cloth off the crosses and add white or gold cloth. You could add a sign saying “Jesus is Risen!”.

Primary:

- Use a random act of kindness to respond to the new life Jesus gives us. Surprise someone with a visit, gift or good deed this week. It could be a neighbour, or someone who is working on Easter Sunday.
- The LCA SA-NT Blueprint Ministries team worked with the Uniting Church of South Australia to develop an Easter Family Faith Trail which could easily be adapted for school use, and which culminates in Easter Sunday:
<https://sa.uca.org.au/documents/intergen-docs/resources/Print-Easter-Family-Faith-Trail-Book.pdf> OR check out
<https://www.allageworshipresources.org/walk-holy-week-prayer-stations/>

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Act out the events of that first Easter Sunday. Imagine how you would have felt if you were each of the characters.
 - Create a collaborative artwork expressing the joy of Easter Sunday and use it as a focal point for your Easter worship. You can find large scale group colouring posters suitable for all ages at <https://store.illustratedministry.com/>
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