



HE'S ALIVE!

John 20:11—21:25

The Good News

Level 4 Easter Lesson

Big Idea *Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to many, proving that He still lives today.*

Lesson Summary

After a weekend of nearly unbearable grief, sleepless nights, and terrifying memories, the emotional pendulum was about to swing for Jesus' followers. Emptiness was replaced with ecstasy, fear gave way to faith, and aimlessness was replaced with renewed purpose as each of Jesus' disciples and friends encountered the risen Lord.

Though some modern-day scholars and so-called Bible experts try to dismiss the resurrection as something other than historical fact, the Word of God devotes much attention to asserting that Jesus did indeed literally rise from the dead. First Corinthians 15:3-8 confirms that hundreds of first-hand witnesses attested to this most significant of human events. As students explore these accounts, they will be moved with joy and grounded in the indisputable evidence that the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom their faith rests, is truly alive.

Teacher Devotional

Fill my heart, Lord, with wonder and amazement at Your resurrection. Let me share the joy of this remarkable miracle.

Allow these students to feel some of what the disciples did as they went from despair to elation. Let the testimonies of those eyewitnesses to Your literal resurrection lodge in their hearts so firmly that they will never waver in their faith regarding this essential truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Pray that each student would respond in faith to the fact of Jesus' resurrection.

Ask that God would help them see Him for who He is and then respond with wholehearted love and devotion to Him.

Key Verse

Topic: He's Alive!

Reference: *John 20:29*

Memorization Activity: After reading the verse aloud several times, draw blanks on the board, one blank for every word in the verse. Allow students to take turns coming to the board and writing words of the verse on the blanks until all the words of the verse are written in the correct order.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • Jesus' death and resurrection are true historical facts
- N** • Many people saw Jesus alive after His death
- O** • Those who encountered Jesus after His resurrection saw His scars, touched His body, and ate with Him
- W**

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Firmly convinced that Jesus is alive today
- E** • Overjoyed because of the guarantee of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ
- E**
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Explore the Biblical evidences of Jesus' resurrection
- O** • Tell someone why they believe that Jesus really did rise from the dead
- Memorize John 20:29

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

Skit Warm-up (minutes)

This drama activity prepares children to act out the Bible passages.

To prepare students to act out today's Scripture passage, begin with a short drama exercise. Ask the class to demonstrate the following emotions from the passage: weeping (20:11), surprise (20:16), extreme joy (20:20), doubt or skepticism (20:25), and hurt feelings (21:17). If you want to spend more time on this, read each of these verses aloud or explain each situation to the students before they act out the corresponding emotion. Choose some of the most expressive students to demonstrate for the whole class.

OR

Easter Collage (minutes)

This craft activity encourages kids to express their feelings about the Resurrection. **Supplies:** art supplies, such as poster board, markers, magazines, scissors, glue sticks, etc.

Invite students to create a work of art that shows what the Resurrection means to them. Display the finished pieces prominently.

Disciple Guide—page 1

Help kids match the sayings to the person who said each one.

Explore Scripture

Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

John 20:11—21:25

Assign the following parts for the students to act out these four scenes. Adjust the number of disciples used in the scenes according to your class size. Give the groups about five to ten minutes to work on their parts, or simply have students mime their parts while you read aloud.

- Scene One: At the Tomb (John 20:11-18) *Mary Magdalene, two angels, Jesus*
- Scene Two: The Locked Room—the first day (John 20:19-23) *ten disciples (not Thomas), Jesus*
- Scene Three: The Locked Room—a week later (John 20:24-29) *Thomas, ten other disciples, Jesus*



HE'S ALIVE!

John 20:11—21:25

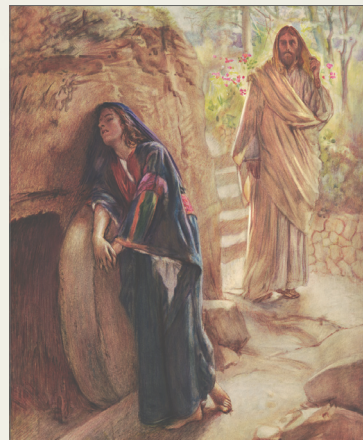
1

The Geo

Friday and Saturday were

filled with crying and great sadness for Jesus' disciples, friends, and family. But, everything changed on Sunday! Mary Magdalene saw Jesus first. What did Mary do after she spoke with Him (John 20:18)?

she went and told the disciples that she had seen Jesus



Grief to Joy: Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus!

Jesus had a special message

for those who saw Him at each appearance. Match each message with those who heard it.

B "Receive the Holy Spirit (20:22)."

A. Mary Magdalene

D "Feed My sheep (21:15)."

B. The disciples (not Thomas)

A "Go to My brothers and tell them (20:17)."

C. Thomas

C "Stop doubting and believe (20:27)."

D. Simon Peter

- Scene Four: By the Sea (John 21:1-24) *Simon Peter, six other disciples, Jesus*

Disciple Guide—page 2

Help children complete the page and the HeartBeat.

After reading and acting out each passage, ask these questions:

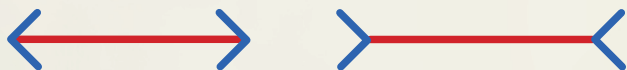
- **What was especially surprising about this appearance of Jesus?**
- **How did those who witnessed this appearance probably feel?**
- **What special message did Jesus give to those who witnessed this appearance?**
- **Why do you think Jesus gave this message to these people at this particular time?**

Read John 21:25. Emphasize and discuss the overwhelming amount of evidence that exists that Jesus really did rise from the dead. You may want to refer to 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

2

Eyes of Faith

You can't always believe your eyes. Which red line looks longer?



Now, measure them with a ruler. You might be surprised at what you find!

Thomas said that he would not believe Jesus was alive unless he saw and touched the wounds in Jesus' hands and side (John 20:25).

Are you a "Doubting Thomas?"

Make a list of things you believe even though you have never seen them with your eyes.

answers will vary



According to John 20:29, why are you blessed?

I have not seen and still believe



Jesus is alive, even though we cannot see Him with our eyes like Mary Magdalene and the disciples did.

Write three ways that you can "see" Jesus in your life with eyes of faith.

- 1.
2. **answers will vary**
- 3.



Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Skeptic (10 minutes)

This discussion activity challenges kids to defend the Resurrection.

Gather the students around you. Tell them that you are going to play the role of a skeptic (someone who doubts that the resurrection really happened). Have students play the roles of those who witnessed the risen Christ. As they tell you their accounts, this will serve as a recap of the lesson. Then ask them to share from their own personal experiences things that give evidence to the fact that Jesus is still living today.

OR

Resurrection Songs (5-10 minutes)

This music activity prompts children to worship God.

Invite a song leader to lead your class in a time of singing contemporary songs or hymns that focus on the resurrection of Jesus. A guitar (or some other live instrument) or a CD player could serve as the accompaniment. As you worship the Lord together, pause briefly to help students understand the significance of the lyrics they are singing.

Closing Prayer

Pray that students will see more and more evidence that Jesus is alive and is active in their own lives and around the world. Ask God to use them as powerful witnesses to people around them.

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Our Lord's resurrection is certainly something we can't celebrate enough! Add to this already memorable day by sharing some homemade snacks with your students. One idea is to make Easter cookies using a cross-shaped cookie cutter. Even a round cookie can remind students that the stone was rolled away! Decorate them ahead of time, or allow students to decorate them in class.

Additional Activities

Presenting Evidence (15-20 minutes)

This roleplay allows kids to make a case for the Resurrection.

Supplies: gavel (optional)

Pretend to be a courtroom judge. Divide the class into groups to prepare testimonies from those who saw Jesus alive after His death. Assign one eyewitnesses to each group:

- Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
- Thomas (John 20:24-29)
- Simon Peter (John 21:1-19)
- Two men on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-35)
- 500 people gathered together (1 Corinthians 15:6-7)

Give each group a card that asks these questions:

1. What does this witness claim happened?
2. Does this witness stand to gain anything by lying?
3. What could this witness lose by giving his report?
4. How do the actions of this witness support his claim?

Allow groups time to gather information and answer the questions before presenting their findings to the court. When all the evidence has been given, have the class vote on the question: "Did Jesus Christ really rise from the dead?"

SUPPLIES ✓

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

None

Spark Interest

- SKIT WARM-UP: none
- EASTER COLLAGE: various art supplies

Explore Scripture

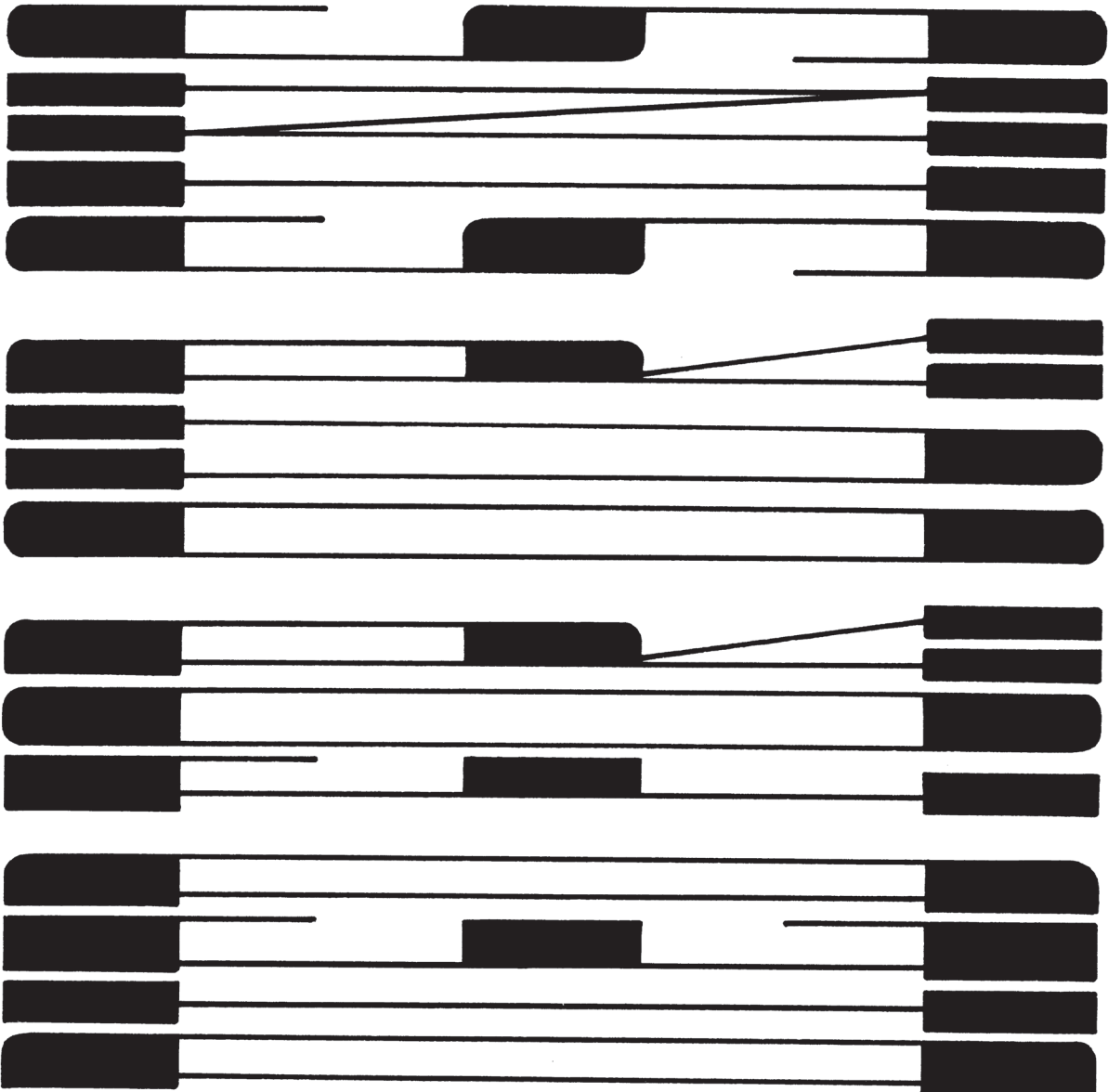
None

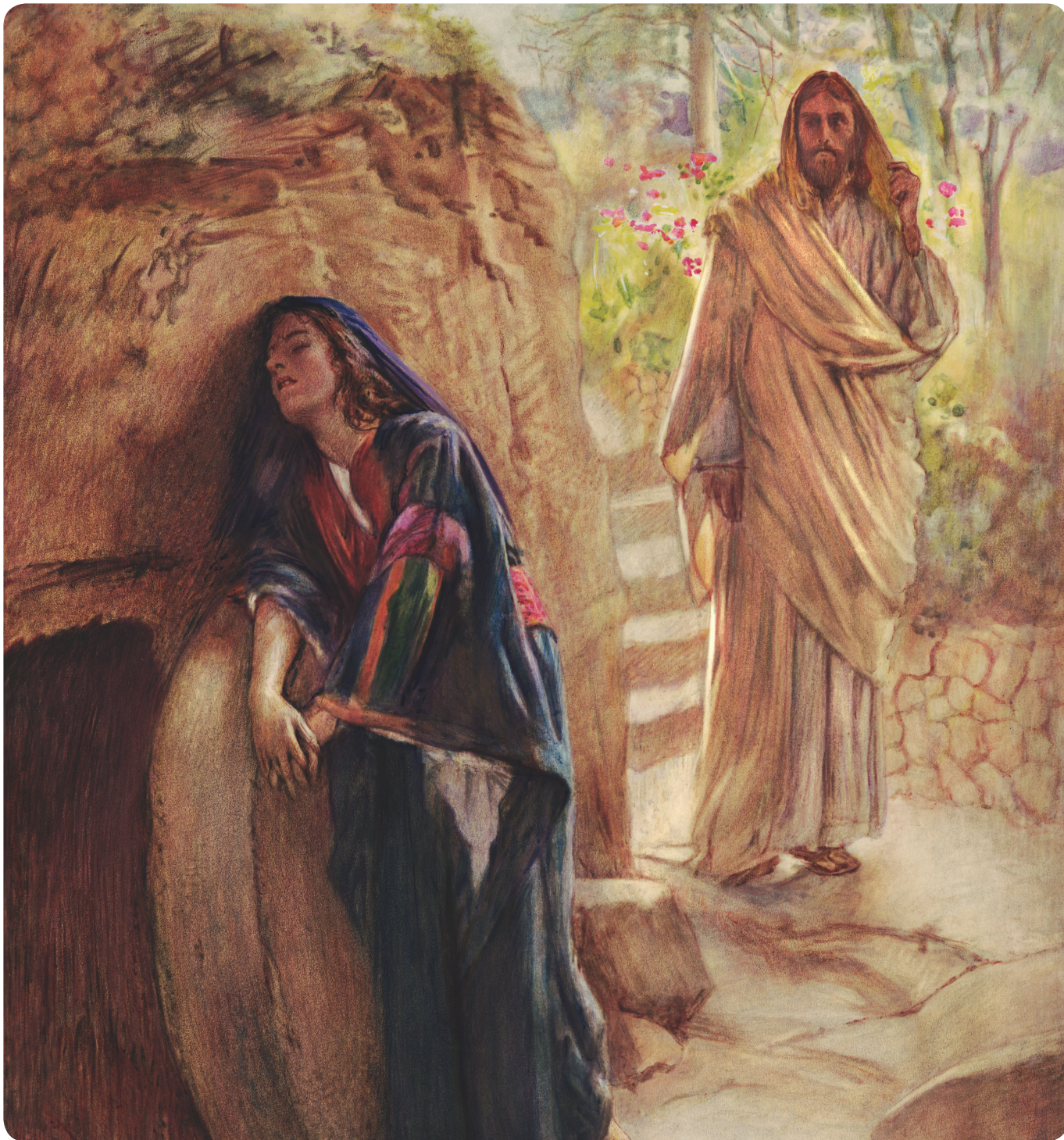
Inspire Action

- SKEPTIC: none
- RESURRECTION SONGS: none

Find the Message

OF 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3
AND DISCOVER
WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US.





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