

The Gift of Life

Big Idea *Jesus died and rose to life so that people may have eternal life.*

Bible Passage *John 19:16—20:31*

Lesson Summary

Christ's mission was to die for our sins. Jesus accepted this calling from His Father in humble obedience. At the end of His ministry, He was arrested and accused unjustly by the Sanhedrin then convicted and sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate. Soldiers nailed Him to the cross between two robbers. Jesus died and was laid in a rich man's tomb. After three days He rose to life and appeared first to Mary of Magdalene, then to the disciples, and then to Thomas.

Through the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, children will come to know what sacrificial love means. Students will learn practical ways they can share this great love with others through their actions.

Bible Background

Jesus knew what kind of death He faced on the cross. He knew the world's salvation depended on His obedience to fulfill His destiny. His human body responded to this great stress (Luke 22:42-43). Yet, during the days leading up to the cross, Jesus comforted His disciples (John 14:1-3, 27) and taught them the true meaning of love (13:34), sacrifice (15:12-13), obedience (14:15,21), and forgiveness (Luke 23:34).

Teacher Devotional

Are you a parent or perhaps the child of loving parents? Then you can understand the power of love so deep that nothing, even your *life*, is more important than the welfare of those you love. Can you imagine the pain God felt allowing Jesus to be persecuted, cruelly beaten, and crucified? Can you fathom how difficult it was for God to keep His host of angels from coming to Jesus' rescue? God's love for His only Son was immeasurable. God sent Jesus to die for your sins so that you would be forever reconciled with God and live with Him in eternity. What does that say about God's love for you?

Dear God, thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your only son to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You for showing me the true meaning of love. May I be a witness to my children today of Your great love through my words and actions. May these children leave today with a better understanding of Your love for them. Teach them practical ways to show Your love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, children will...

KNOWLEDGE

- K** • Jesus died to forgive their sins. (John 20:31)
- N** • Jesus rose from the dead. (John 20:16-18)
- O** • They are blessed because they believe. (John 20:27)
- W**

CHARACTER

- F** • Compassion for people who do not know Jesus.
- E** • Thankful that Jesus has forgiven their sins.
- E** • Joy that Jesus is alive, and they will see Him in heaven.
- L**

CONDUCT

- D** • Explain the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- O** • Share Jesus' love through their actions toward others.

Make Disciples

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

Opening Prayer

Ask children to fold their hands and shut their eyes for prayer. Pray that each child would personally know Jesus' love and in turn be able to share that love with others. Close by thanking God for each child by name and for the opportunity to teach His Word.

Memorize God's Word

Topic: The Greatest Love

Reference: *John 15:13*

Memorization Activity: Write the verse on a board. Have the children repeat the verse with you a few times. Use different voices to engage the children. Ask them to repeat it in their loudest voice, to whisper it, to say it like a lion, etc. Ask a volunteer to come up and erase two words. Have the students repeat the verse again filling in the blanks. Continue to erase one or two words at a time until the whole board is erased. Repeat the verse each time a word is erased. By the time the board is blank the class should be able to repeat the verse without seeing it.

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Children need to know you care about them. There is an old saying—"People do not care what you know unless they know that you care." Take time to interact with all your kids. Get on their level, look them in the eyes, and learn about them as a person. Ask about pets, favorite activities, super heroes, candy, etc. Recognize and celebrate their individuality at each opportunity.

Spark Interest

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

Cleansed by Christ (10 minutes)

This object lesson illustrates how Jesus' blood purifies our hearts.

Supplies: see list on page 4

To make this demonstration more effective, use two-pint jars. Place a white heart outline on the bottom half of the first jar. The jar for the second ingredients should have a white cross the length of the jar. Fill the "heart-jar" half full of vinegar and starch solution. The "cross-jar" should be full of the second solution. See page 4.

The heart-jar represents the hearts of Adam and Eve at Creation before sin came into the world. Hold up the iodine bottle. **This bottle represents sin.** Explain that iodine taken internally is deadly poison, just as sin is to our souls. **When Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and disobeyed God, sin entered their hearts.** Drop a few drops of iodine and gently shake the heart-jar. The liquid will turn completely black. **Because of sin, humans became separated from God and were doomed to die.**

But God loved us so much that He planned a way for people to be saved. God sent His Son to earth. Jesus died on the cross for us so that we might live forever. Show the cross-jar full of red liquid. **The Bible tells us that if we believe in Jesus, confess our sins, and ask Jesus to forgive**

SUPPLIES ✓

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guide pages
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

No additional supplies

Spark Interest

- CLEANSED BY CHRIST: see page 4.
- EASTER CROSSES: construction paper, tissue paper

Explore Scripture

None

Inspire Action

- RESURRECTION EGGS: large easter eggs, toothpicks, rocks
- EASTER BLESSINGS: cardstock

us, **He will make our hearts white and pure again.** Pour the red liquid into the black liquid and the heart will become white again. **Jesus cleanses us from all sin.**

OR

Easter Crosses (10-15 minutes)

This craft activity creates a beautiful reminder of Christ's sacrifice.

Supplies: construction paper, colored tissue paper, glue, scissors

Draw a cross onto white construction paper. Cut different colored tissue paper into small pieces. Spread glue onto the cross and add the tissue paper. Cut out the cross and glue onto your choice of colored construction paper. On the construction paper, write or have kids write: "Jesus died for me!"

Disciple Guide—page 1

As kids complete the maze, explain that they will soon here about Mary and Joseph's journey.

Explore Scripture

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

John 19:16—20:31

Who can tell me what love means? Allow children to respond. **How can you show someone that you love him or her?** Encourage responses. **Do you know that Jesus loves you? He loved you even before you were born. Jesus loves you so much that He even died for you! That is the greatest love that anyone could ever show you.**

People became sinful when Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and bit the apple. Adam did what God had commanded him not to do. That is what sin is—doing something against God's commandments. From that time, sin made it impossible for people to live with God.

This made God very sad because He loves people very much—He made us to be part of His family. But God hates sin. So God sent Jesus to earth to tell people to believe in Him and to be sorry for their sins. And do you know what happened? Some people believed! They were so happy they confessed their ugly sins and became part of God's family forever.

But some people were angry. They did not believe Jesus. The religious leaders hated what He said and wanted

Him to go away. Those people had Jesus arrested and beaten. They asked their governor, Pontius Pilate, to have Jesus killed. The governor did not want the people to be mad at him, so he said yes.

Do you think Jesus was angry or mad? Encourage responses. **Jesus actually asked God to forgive these people, even when they were hurting him! That's love. Jesus knew that He needed to die and take all of our ugly sins to the grave with Him so they'd be gone forever. Then God would accept us in His family.**

Jesus died on the cross. His friends buried Him in a cave—they called it a tomb and rolled a big stone over the opening. Show illustration of the tomb and the stone. Jesus' friends were very, very sad. They thought Jesus was dead and gone forever.

Jesus' friends had forgotten what He had promised. Jesus promised that after three days He would return from the grave—He would rise from the dead. Jesus kept His promise! He came back to life! We call it "the resurrection." Show back cover picture of Jesus appearing to the disciples. Jesus appeared to His friend Mary, then He appeared to the rest of His friends, the disciples. When the disciples saw Jesus again they were filled with joy and believed all that He had told them. They let Jesus forgive their ugly sins and told everyone they could about Jesus.



Jesus is alive in heaven today. Jesus said if we believe that He is the son of God, that He died, was buried, and after three days, rose from the dead, that He will forgive our sins if we only ask. Then we can have eternal life and live with Him in heaven forever. Which of you has believed in Jesus and had your sins forgiven? Who would like to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and to become your friend forever? Lead children who raise their hands in prayer to trust in Jesus. Be sensitive to those who may not be ready.

Disciple Guide—page 2

Read the story with the children the first time through. The second time, pause for them to "read" the illustrations. Repeat until they can read the story on their own.

Jesus died on a cross. Jesus was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose to life! Mary saw Jesus! The disciples saw Jesus! Thomas saw Jesus! Jesus said that people could now live with Jesus in heaven. The disciples were very happy! Jesus is alive!

Inspire Action

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

Resurrection Eggs (15 minutes)

This craft provides children with a tool to remind them of the Easter story so they can share it with others. **Supplies:** large plastic Easter eggs, toothpicks, small rocks

Have children collect or make the following items to place in their Easter eggs:

- Toothpick cross: Use toothpicks and yarn to create a small cross to fit inside the egg.
- Rock: Have enough small rocks for each child
- Forever: Print the word “Forever” on small slips of paper

Have children put their cross, rock and forever note inside their eggs. Lead them through the story:

- Have them open the egg and hold up the toothpick cross and say **Jesus died on the cross for our sins.**
- Have them hold up the rock: **He was buried in a tomb.**
- Have them hold up the open egg: **He rose after three days.**
- Have them hold up the slip of paper that says Forever: **He is in Heaven today and He will be with us FOREVER.**

OR

Easter Blessings (15 minutes)

This outreach opportunity allows kids to show compassion for others through an Easter blessing card. **Supplies:** cardstock

Identify a local group that you can share these Easter blessings with, such as an infirmary or retirement home, military group, woman’s shelter, etc. Provide card stock and materials for kids to make special gift cards. Have the children include one Bible verse in the card. Print yourself or have them write:

God wants you to know that He loves you.

(Choose one Bible verse and print the words.)

- Hebrews 15:5b
- Romans 8:28a
- John 3:14

Easter Blessings,

[child’s name]

Closing Prayer

Have children each hold up a hand. They can point to their thumbs and say, “I will;” their second fingers and say, “Say thank you;” their third fingers, “Say I’m sorry;” their fourth fingers, “Ask for things;” and their fifth fingers to shout, “Praise God. Amen.”

Point to your second finger for children to quietly thank God for something. **Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins.** Point to your third finger for children to quietly confess their sins. **Forgive us for not loving others as Jesus loved us.** Point to your fourth finger for children to quietly ask God for help. **Please help us share Jesus’ love with others today with our words and actions.** Point to your fifth finger for children to shout, “Praise God. Amen.”

Closing Words

Today we learned about God’s great love for us through Jesus’ words and actions. Remember that you too can share God’s love to others through your words and actions.

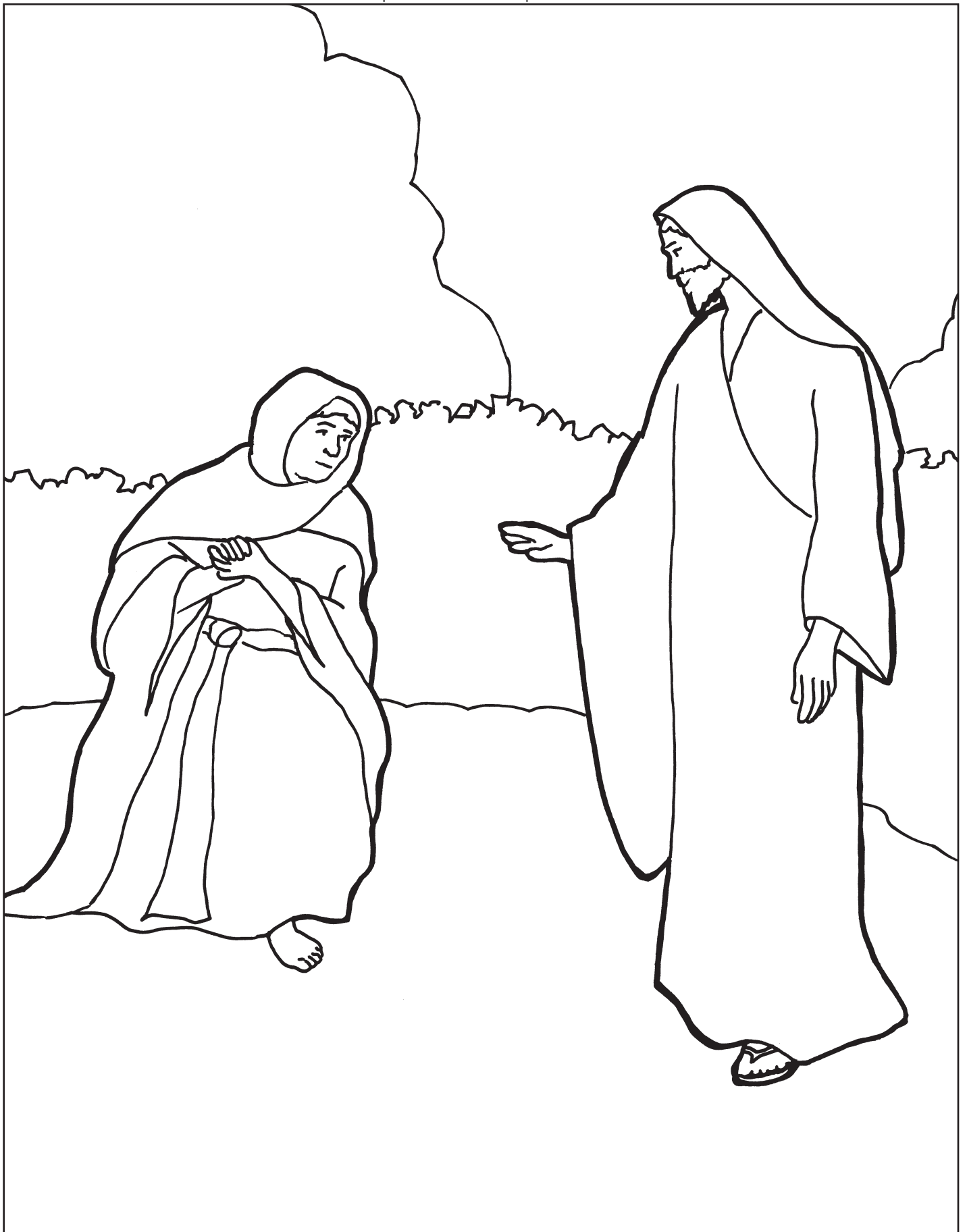
Cleansed by Christ Supplies

Solution 1. To show a pure heart and the effects of sin.

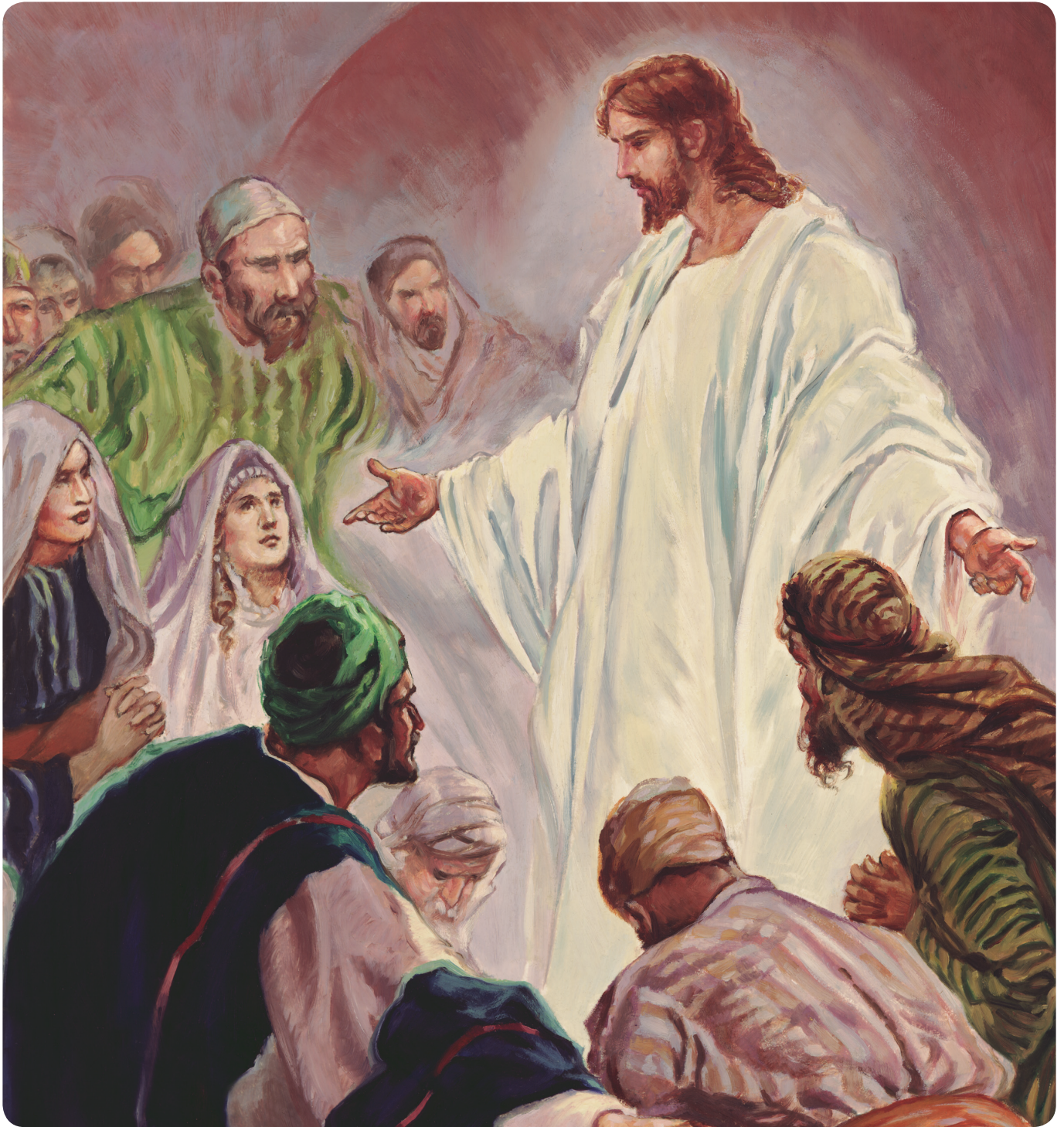
- Cornstarch solution: To prepare the cornstarch solution, use one teaspoon of starch to a pint of water.
- Vinegar: Mix one part vinegar to four parts starch solution (example: approximately 10 mil vinegar to 40 mil starch solution).
- Iodine (2%): The iodine will be added during the demonstration.

Solution 2. To show Christ’s blood.

- PH plus for pools or washing soda (sodium carbonate): add one teaspoonful to a pint of water.
- Sodium thiosulphate solution (Photographer’s “hypo” found in a camera shop): four tablespoonsful to a pint of water.
- Indicator solution (PH indicator in pool supply store): Mix equal parts of sodium carbonate and sodium thiosulphate solutions (22.17 ml plus 22.17 ml) plus four drops of indicator solution. Liquid should be red.



Jesus Appears to Mary



DiscipleLand
Disciples for Life®

DiscipleLand.com 800.284.0158

ISBN 0-86606-829-5



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KHEL—The Gift of Life

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Print Date: March 2020