

Easter Story: The Resurrection

Text: Luke 18:31-33; 24:1-35

Aim: To teach that Jesus rose from the dead so that we can know he really is the king.



Preparation

Read Luke 18:31-33; 24:1-35 and answer the following questions:

- What did the two men want the women to remember? (18:31-33, 24:6-8)
- What proof had the disciples on their way to Emmaus been given that morning that Jesus was the promised Messiah (king)? (24:9, 21-24)
- Why did Jesus rebuke them? (24:19-21, 25-27)
- How did the women and disciples respond when they understood that Jesus had been raised? (24:9, 31-33).

Think about the way Jesus foretold his death and resurrection and what they prove about him.

Pray for each of the children you teach, that God would help them to understand that we know that Jesus is the king because he was raised to life.



Visual Aids

Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:

- A Children's Bible containing pictures of this story.



Lesson

Talk to the children about what happens when someone dies. We have a funeral. They get buried. Can we talk to them again? Can we see them? Talk about how sad it is that we can't ever see or talk to someone we love after they die.

Remind the children that death happens to everyone, it can't be changed. But in today's true story from the Bible there was a man who died and came to life again! Retell the

story, showing the children the pictures from the Children's Bible.

"After Jesus had died his friends were very sad. They waited three days and then, very early in the morning, some women came to visit the place where Jesus had been buried.

But when they got there they were very surprised! What do you think they found? The huge, heavy stone which blocked Jesus' tomb had been rolled away! They looked inside, but they couldn't see Jesus anywhere. Only the clothes his body had been wrapped in were left! What had happened/how do you think they felt/what do you think they thought?

When they came outside again the women saw two angels. They were very scared. The angels told the women 'Jesus is not dead, he is alive! Remember what he told you: the Son of God would die and three days later rise to life.'

The women remembered. They ran back to tell Jesus' friends all that had happened. Peter, one of Jesus' best friends, was amazed when he heard and he hurried to the tomb to see for himself. Jesus wasn't there. He was alive again!"

Long before he was killed, Jesus told his friends that he was going to die and then come alive again. No one has ever done that before. Only God can do that! Jesus said that he had to die so that we can be friends with God. If we trust what Jesus said then we can be friends with God and when we die we can also be made alive again, just like Jesus, and be with him in heaven forever.



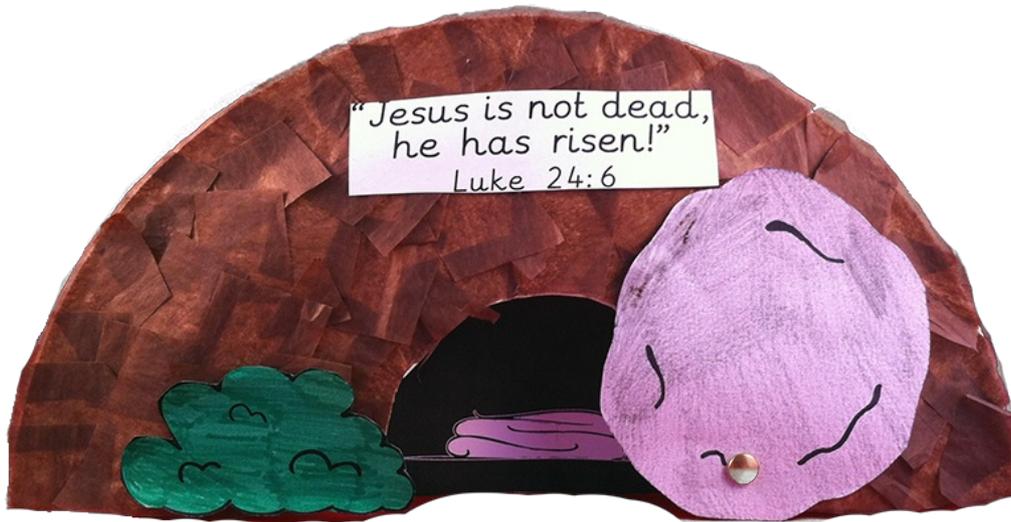
Activity

Choose either Activity A, Activity B, or Activity C.

Activity A - Make an empty tomb. Print Activity A from the Media section of this webpage onto card (one for every three children), and cut out the shapes. Cut squares of brown/grey/black tissue paper from several sheets.

Give each child a paper plate/bowl cut in half. Help them glue/staple the two halves together to leave a gap between them (the tomb). Cut an arch/circle from the bottom of one of the plates. The children paste the squares of tissue paper over the outside of the 'tomb'. Give each child a set of shapes for them to colour in. Glue the bush over one side of the tomb, the verse across the top and the square with the graveclothes inside the mouth of the tomb.

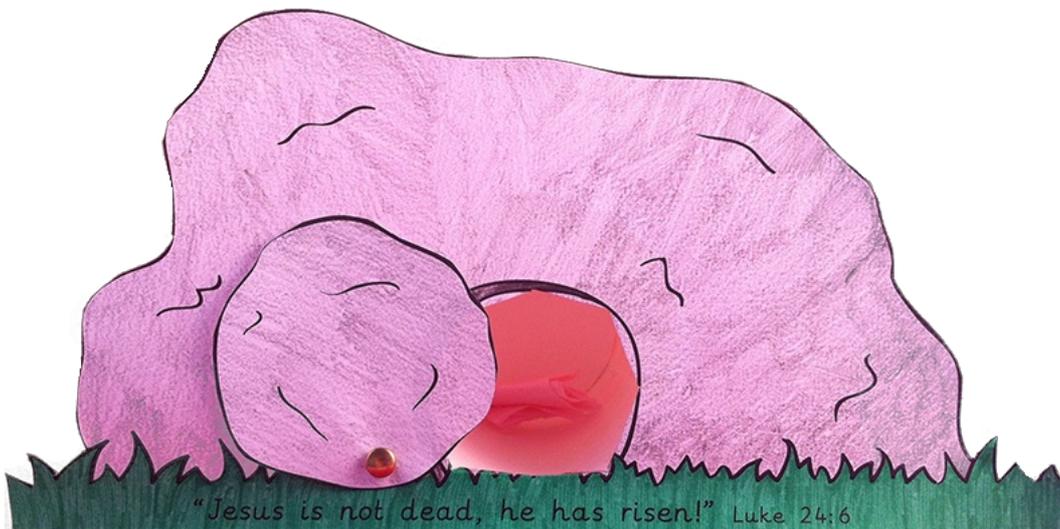
Using a split pin, attach the stone to the opposite side and bottom of the circle you cut away. This can be turned to reveal the graveclothes inside. Remind the children that Jesus died and came alive again just as he said he would.



Activity B – Print Activity B from the Media section of this webpage onto card for each child; cut along the bold lines and fold outwards along the dashed lines. You will also need one cup; one split pin; and a few strips of cloth per child.

Give the children each a tomb and tombstone to colour in. Attach the cup behind the tomb by gluing or taping the folds to the cup's inside. Then help the children to attach the stone to the side of the tomb's mouth using a split pin. This can be turned to reveal the 'empty grave'. Give each of the children a few strips of cloth to place inside their tomb.

Remind them that when the women came to where Jesus had been buried he wasn't there! They could only find his graveclothes because he was alive again, just as he said he would be before he died.



Activity C – Print Activity C-1 from the Media section of this webpage onto card for each child and use a craft blade to cut along the two bold lines. Print Activity C-2 onto card (one copy for every six children), and cut out the pieces. The children colour in the picture and the stone then stick a few squares of cloth over the graveclothes in the tomb.

Insert the strip behind the tombstone into the two slits cut into the card. The children can pull gently on the tab to roll the stone away and reveal only the graveclothes inside.

Remind the children that Jesus died, was buried and then came alive again just as he said he would – all the women found were his graveclothes!



Game Idea

Option 1: ‘In the Tomb, Out the Tomb’. Lay a large cloth/blanket out on the floor (use tape to secure the edges if the floor is slippery). Tell the children that the blanket is the tomb where Jesus was laid when he died. They must all start in the tomb. When you say “Jesus is alive” the children jump off the blanket. When you say “Jesus died” they must get back onto the blanket as fast as they can. The last child to do so is out and must stand to one side with you. Repeat this until there are only two or three children left.

Option 2: Before the lesson make a model tomb (or you could use one of the children’s crafts from Activity A or B). Using Duplo/Lego/Playmobil or other small figures, let the children retell the story. Ask questions about what happened next to prompt them as you narrate.

Option 3: Get the children to lie down on the floor. They must lie very still and pretend to be dead. Tell the children that Jesus lay dead in the tomb for three days then count very slowly to three. When you say “Three” the children jump up as quickly as they can and clap their hands. See who can do this the fastest.

Remind them that only God can make people alive again – how wonderful that Jesus is alive!



Prayer

Dear God, thank you for raising Jesus to life, just as he said, so that we can be friends with you. Amen.

Reinforcement

Print the Reinforcement Slip page from the Media section of this webpage and give one slip to each child to take home. This will encourage parents to reinforce today's lesson. Alternatively, you could copy the text below and edit as appropriate for your context. This can then be printed or emailed to parents.

Today your child learned that Jesus rose from the dead so that we can know he really is the king.

To reinforce this lesson this week:

1. When you make promises to your child e.g. that something will happen/they can have something, talk about how what you said happened. You told the truth! Jesus told his disciples that he would die and rise to life. Because it happened we can know his promises to us are true.
2. Use times when someone you know dies to talk to your child about death and what happens - funeral and burial. Talk about what death means, but that if we trust in Jesus we will see each other again in heaven when God raises us to life.

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