



Date: _____
Series: Surrender U
Winter Year 1, Lesson 48

Jesus is Alive: He Offers Victory Over Failure

Take Home Point: *Give up feeling defeated—get Jesus' victory. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 26:69-75; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 1:3

Key Verse: Romans 8:34, "Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life. Christ has the highest position in heaven. Christ also intercedes for us."

We will help kids know:

- When Jesus rose from the dead, he won the victory over our sin and failure and is alive to give us the victory now.
- All people experience failure. We can bring these failures to Jesus with confidence, because of the victory of his resurrection.
- Jesus is alive and with us through all of our challenges.




We will help kids feel:

- Emotionally tugged by the memories of failures.
- Hopeful as they bring these failures to the resurrected Christ.

We will help kids do:

- Create a "darkened" mood in which kids discuss their failures.
- Experience the positive victory of the resurrection as they encounter God's word. They will then be able to approach God's throne of grace about any failures they have ever had.
- Make a resurrection craft that will help them remember Jesus' victory.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids will discuss failures and the victory in Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candle • candle holder • matches or lighter for each group
Large Group 	4 6	Overview Creation of a resurrection moment: Large group presenter calls the small groups together with a somber tone and a darkened room. He uses scripture to explain how Jesus has won the victory over all our failures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flower • Easter candy • book light or flashlight • completed craft project or symbol of resurrection
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a craft as a reminder of the resurrection, or do a service project helping younger grades in an Easter egg hunt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resurrection craft for each student (<i>order from www.orientaltrading.com</i>)

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Small Group Warm-Up: 30 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, for remembering to bring Bibles, and for bringing a guest.

Special note for today:

On this resurrection morning, there will be a heightened sense of excitement and probably many new guests. Help them feel at home. We will create a contemplative, intimate mood in the small groups. By contrast, in large group we will create an exciting resurrection moment. The remainder of the time will be spent in small groups doing a resurrection craft of your choosing.

Every small group will need a candle, candleholder, and matches (or lighter). After the large group leader welcomes everyone, and all are situated in their small groups, the signal is given for the shepherds to light their candles. Dim the lights. Make sure shepherds have enough light to read their part, if necessary.

Shepherd:

I know this is an exciting morning as it is Easter. But, I want you to imagine what it might have felt like if you were actually there at Jesus' time. We want to begin two nights before Easter morning. This was a very dark time.

Peter, on this night, had one of the darkest moments of his life. He told Jesus at supper that night, "I will NEVER betray you, Lord! Even though everyone else might run away, I will stand by you." Jesus knew that when Peter would be tempted, he would fail. This is what happened after Jesus was arrested.

Matthew 26:74-75 says, "Then Peter began to curse and swear with an oath, 'I don't know that man!' Just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before a rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me.' Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly."

How do you think Peter felt about that failure? (Terrible, sorry, ashamed.) The next day Peter watched Jesus die. How do you think he felt then? (Bad, sad, ashamed.)

Peter had been with Jesus for three years. He had followed Jesus and had hoped that Jesus was the promised one his people had been waiting generations for. Now, Jesus was dead. It seemed as if it was all over. Peter had no more hope. He could not remember or understand the promise Jesus had spoken before his death, the

promise that he would rise again after three days. Peter was in the darkness of his failure.

Even if Jesus did rise, maybe Peter thought to himself, “Would Jesus ever take me back after I failed him so miserably?”

We have all failed. Some of these failures are big and some seem rather small. What are some of the failures that you have had?

I can remember... (Shepherd shares an experience of failure with the small group.)

Who else could share a failure, small or big, with us? Let’s all share an experience. (Discuss.)

Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection from the grave, we no longer need to feel like failures. Today we will learn **Give up feeling defeated—get Jesus’ victory.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Creation of a resurrection moment: Large group presenter calls the small groups together with a somber tone and a darkened room. He uses scripture to explain how Jesus has won the victory over all our failures.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Observation Questions: What happened?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to Matthew 26:69-75 in their Bibles.

How did Peter fail Jesus? *(After Jesus was arrested, Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus, just as Jesus had predicted.)*

How do you think Peter felt?

In Hebrews 4:14-16, Jesus is referred to as “our superior chief priest.” What does a chief priest do for us? (See Hebrews 5:1. He represents the people in front of God to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin.)

How did Jesus make the supreme sacrifice for our sin? (He gave his life for us on the cross.)

But Jesus did not stay dead. Where is Jesus now? (In heaven.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Today’s key verse from Romans 8:34-35 says, “Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life. Christ has the highest position in heaven. Christ also intercedes for us.

What is Jesus doing in heaven for us right now? (Interceding or praying for us.)

Application Activity:

Pass out the supplies needed to make the craft. While kids make the resurrection craft, continue with the following.

How did you feel at the beginning when we had all the lights out and spoke in soft voices? How did you feel after the lights were turned on? How might this be like Peter’s experience?

Let’s talk about some of the things we would like to ask Jesus. Remember that he is alive and we can ask him for anything. We can ask him to help us have success instead of failure because he has given us the victory.

Option (instead of the craft): Have the kids assemble or hide Easter eggs for a younger grade. Share with them that hunting for eggs is exciting and we want to find a surprise. Say:

We hope we find an egg. The people on Easter morning were excited about finding the empty tomb and Jesus alive! Because of this, we have hope that lasts forever. We know that Jesus will be with us forever and we will be in heaven with him someday.

Review the take home point: ****Give up feeling defeated—get Jesus’ victory.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the victory of Jesus that gives us success instead of the failure of our sins. Lead any kids in prayer that want to receive Jesus for the first time.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Supplies: flower, Easter candy, book light or flashlight, completed craft project kids will make in small group application or a symbol of the resurrection

Sometime during the small group discussion, the large group presenter calls the small groups together. The mood can still be dark and somber. He/she begins speaking in soft tones to the group.

Use the flower and candy as props to help illustrate the point

What does Easter mean? Some people think it means the beginning of spring. Show flower. It is true. It can mark that. Others think Easter is a time for wearing new church clothes and having the family together. Point to clothes.

These are wonderful things, too. Many of you are already feeling the stomachache of too much candy, because Easter is about finding hidden treats. Show candy. That can be a fun part of it. But, the true meaning of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

To fully understand this, we have to imagine what it means to feel failure and darkness. Can you imagine what it would feel like to have no hope? I would like everyone to blow out the candles. Please be very still and very quiet.

Shepherds blow out the candles.

The large group leader will need a book light or flashlight to read the following dialogue and scripture.

What would this world be like if you were stuck and could never escape any of your failures?

Pause for several seconds and then continue in a hushed tone.

Be very quiet as I read this promise from God's word, Hebrews 4:14-16:

"We need to hold on to our declaration of faith: We have a superior chief priest who has gone through the heavens. That person is Jesus, the Son of God. We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin. So we can go confidently to the throne of God's kindness to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time."

Turn on lights. Shout:

OUR FAILURES ARE NOT FINAL! JESUS IS ALIVE—WE HAVE THE VICTORY!

Hebrews 4:14 said, *“We need to hold on to our declaration of faith. We have a superior chief priest who has gone through the heavens. That person is Jesus, the Son of God.”* Let me explain. A priest is someone who makes an offering on behalf of people, so their failures can be lifted. This is what our priest Jesus has done. He is God’s Son, and has risen from the dead after sacrificing his life for us. Now, he has entered heaven to plead on our behalf.

Verse 15 says this, *“So, we have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses.”* In other words, Jesus knows our failures. Why? The Bible says he was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn’t sin. Jesus understands our failures. He, too, was tempted. But since he didn’t sin, he can give us the power of his forgiveness, and the ability to be free from making those failures over and over again.

Verse 16 tells us that, *“We can go confidently to the throne of God’s kindness to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time.”*

Show a completed craft project that illustrates the resurrection. Or use another art object or symbol of your choosing.

We have confidence to approach God’s throne of grace. Our failures are not final. With his death and resurrection, Jesus has won the victory over any failure we have ever had. He is the one alive right now, welcoming us to surrender to him any failures of our past and receive his victory.

Let’s pray for that now. I’m going to say a longer prayer because it has several Bible passages that describe our truth today. Focus your attention and listen to all the words. It will help you **give up feeling defeated, and get Jesus’ victory!*

Dear God, we have all had failures. You know better than anyone else. Some of these things we don’t even want to talk about. But you can sympathize with our weaknesses. You once lived as a human like us, but you were perfect. Thank you for giving your life as a sacrifice for our failures, and being alive today to prove that our failures are not final. We can be forgiven.

Thank you that we can have confidence to come to you in our time of need, and you will always hear and deliver. You are our high priest who now lives in heaven and can take away our guilt. We claim the promise that Peter wrote in his book, 1 Peter 1:3b, *"We have been born into a new life that has a confidence which is alive because Jesus Christ has come back to life."* We have confidence, because Jesus has come back to life.

We also, have an inheritance that will last forever—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for us because of what Jesus has done for us. Romans 8:34-35, *"Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life. Christ has the highest position in heaven. Christ also intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can trouble, distress, persecution, (or our own failures...) separate us from his love?"* No nothing can separate us from your love for us. Thank you for this. In Christ Jesus' name, Amen.