



Date: _____
Series: Resurrection Sunday
Winter Year 3, Lesson 48

Jesus Lives and So Will We

Primary Scripture: Luke 24:1-12 Jesus' resurrection

Key Verses: Luke 24:6a, "He's not here. He has been brought back to life!"

John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?'"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need a clear understanding of the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. What Jesus said about himself is true; he is God's Son. Jesus died for the sins of the world and came back to life again to show that he had defeated death and taken the eternal punishment of sin. Kids need to know that if they trust in Jesus, and even if they die, they will live as Jesus did after his death. In fact, they will live face-to-face with him. Oftentimes, kids struggle with fear of death, especially when they first begin to grasp that death is permanent. This message of the resurrection will help their fear subside and their confidence to grow as they put their trust in Jesus as Savior.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus rose from the dead. This is proof that after death, we who trust in him will also be alive with God forever. His resurrection can calm our fears of death itself.

Jesus in us: Jesus is alive. He lives and dwells in the lives of believers through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: Not only do we have a new life with God in heaven when we die, but we have newness of life here on earth. The resurrected power of Jesus works through us so that we might be witnesses of his presence to the world.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: two to three raw eggs in the shell, three spoons, a dyed hard-boiled egg, several sheets of newspaper spread on the floor

Hold up a raw egg.

Did you ever wonder why eggs are used so much at Easter? It's because eggs are oftentimes a symbol of life. This egg, for example, came from a chicken and eggs like this could hatch. Then we might see the life of a new baby chick.

Lets talk about this egg again. Sometimes eggs like this are delicate to hold because if dropped, they make a big mess.

Invite three volunteers up to the front and give each a spoon. Have them stand in a semi-circle. Make sure no one's back is turned to the audience. Have them pass the egg on the spoons as fast as they can. It will soon slip from the spoons and hit the floor—splattering and breaking.

Oh, what a tragedy. The egg fell and broke! Kids, were you nervous when you passed the egg around? Were you afraid of what might happen? Yes, that is sometimes how we feel about life. We might be scared or nervous that life could break so easily or be ended.

Because of that, many people are afraid of death. But look at this egg.

Hold up the dyed Easter egg.

This reminds us of Easter. What happened on Easter morning? (Jesus rose from the dead.) Think about that as the kids pass a dyed Easter egg around on the spoons.

As the kids do this, again the egg may drop. But this time, when it breaks, the contents won't spill out because it is hard-boiled. Explain.

This is symbolic of Jesus taking away the power of death on Easter. He rose from the dead. He helps us to not be afraid of death because when he rose again after he died, he showed his followers that he was still alive. If we believe in him, we, too, will live.

Lets worship him and thank him for that today.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: a hidden dyed Easter egg in the gathering area

Reveal the hidden Easter egg.

Did anybody find any Easter eggs this morning that made them feel excited or happy? That can be the same kind of feeling we have when we discover that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for us. When we believe in him, Jesus becomes part of our lives and promises to live with us forever.

Lets thank him for that now.

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us. Thank you for dying on the cross and becoming alive again. Thank you for living with us now and giving us the promise that if we die, we will live with you forever. Thank you for the life you have given us here. Help us to live all our days serving you until the time comes that you want us to be at home with you in heaven. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Talk about the current mission project and the joy of giving so others come to know Jesus' love for them and the power of his death and resurrection.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: at least two spoons (they may be plastic) per line, Easter eggs (either plastic eggs or hard-boiled), masking tape to make a line on the floor

“Easter Egg Relay”

Divide the children into equal players per team. Give each team a spoon and an Easter egg on another spoon.

Have teams start behind the tapeline. With the starting signal, the first runners of each team should run with their eggs to the other side of the room, circle around an object, and return to the line. They then pass the Easter egg from their spoon to the spoon of the next person in line. This continues until the relay is completed and the winning team is determined.

If the egg should fall, the egg may be picked up and placed on the spoon, but the player must go backward five steps before continuing.

Discussion questions:

How many of you were nervous about the egg falling when you were racing?

For those of you that dropped your eggs, what happened after it fell? Could you still continue the game? *(Yes, after going back five steps, they could go forward again.)*

This is like our lives. We might be scared when we face death. But we know that it is just like an egg falling and hitting the ground in this game. It isn't the end. We don't need to be afraid. Instead, when we trust Jesus as our Savior, we will live with him, face-to-face, in the perfect world of heaven with all those family and friends who have trusted Jesus and his resurrection for us.

Jesus says in John 11:25-26, “I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?”

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Option 1

Read Luke 24:1-12 noting several key words to leave blank. Have the children fill in the blanks as the story is read to them.

Option 2

Show a video or film. Choose one of the following recommendations:

- *The Miracle Maker*, Family Home Entertainment. 1999
- The Animated Stories from the New Testament – *He is Risen*. Nest Family Entertainment, 1988, ISBN 1-56489-177-1

Application:

Option 1: Easter Craft

There are wonderful Easter crafts available from Oriental Trading Company, and also S & S Worldwide. Let the kids make Easter crafts for take home projects.

Option 2:

Let the kids have an Easter Egg Hunt

Option 3:

“James and the Easter Egg Surprise”

Supplies needed: candy filled plastic Easter egg for each child, one plastic Easter egg with a small smooth stone on which a small cross has been painted, a small rock for each student, paint and a paint applicator/brush for each student. Option: cross sticker for each child, large candy bar

Introduction to the story:

Boys and girls, remember last week we celebrated Easter? Many of you had a chance to hunt for Easter eggs. Today we have a story about a surprise Easter egg. To help me tell the story, I'm going to pass out plastic Easter eggs to all of you. Please DO NOT OPEN THEM until I tell you. You can have whatever surprise is inside. This story is about James and the Easter egg surprise.

Pass out the plastic Easter eggs, giving the egg with the rock to a boy who wouldn't be embarrassed to become part of the story. He will come forward toward the end of the story. Make sure that he is a child who follows directions well and will not peek in the egg ahead of time.

James was feeling queasy in his stomach. It was happening often these days. Something was bothering him. It wasn't something he ate. His stomach bothered him from worrying too much. He had been thinking about death a lot lately. Death—that's not a very pleasant subject, but James once knew a boy in his class who died of cancer. James was thinking about that often now. His stomach knotted up, and he couldn't concentrate well at school. He told his mother that he was sick and couldn't go to school, but when she took his temperature, he seemed okay. "What's wrong, James?" she asked.

James said, "I don't know. I'm just worried about stuff." James was actually having a hard time talking about what was making him afraid. It wasn't just death. He was worried if he died, maybe he wouldn't go to heaven. Maybe God wasn't very happy with him. No matter how hard he tried, he seemed to do wrong things that wouldn't please God.

On the day before Easter, the last place he wanted to go was to an Easter egg hunt at church. But his mom thought it would be good for him and that it might help him feel better. So he ended up going anyway, despite his protests. When James arrived at church, many of his friends were already there. Of course, they even brought friends! Everyone was looking forward to a great time because they all knew Easter egg hunts meant candy!

The children's pastor and Mr. Marshall, called all the kids together and gave them directions. He said that they were to go to the playground by the church and hunt for plastic Easter eggs. After they found as many as they could, they were to return to church and open them up for their surprise.

Before dismissing them to go hunting, Mr. Marshall said, "One of the eggs is the surprise Easter egg. It has something other than candy in

it. If you find it, bring it to me and I'll let you trade it for a super-sized candy bar. Are you ready? Set? Go!!"

Off the kids went to hunt for eggs. When they came back, Mr. Marshall told the kids they could open their eggs and have their surprise. They all opened their eggs and found their candy—all except one, that is. That egg was special.

When James opened his eggs, he found candy in four of them but the fifth one had something most unusual. It wasn't candy at all! Can you guess what it was, kids?

Take several guesses from the kids.

No, I won't tell you. You'll have to find out yourselves. There is a surprise Easter egg in the group today! If you have candy in your egg, you can keep it. If you don't have candy in yours, you have received the surprise Easter egg! Bring it forward when you have found it. You can all open your eggs now!

One child will bring the small rock forward.

Aaah, here is the surprise Easter egg. Sit down here and I'll explain it to you in just a moment.

First, let's talk to everyone about the candy in the Easter eggs. In our story, Mr. Marshall asked the group, "How does candy in an Easter egg remind us that Jesus rose from the dead?" Several of the kids had suggestions, do you?

Take suggestions from the group. Let the kids use their imaginations.

Mr. Marshall said, "Perhaps these eggs remind us of the empty tomb. Because Jesus had risen from the dead, it gives sweetness to our lives."

Then Mr. Marshall took the surprise Easter egg from James. Do you see what the surprise was in James' Easter egg? For this I'll reward him with this candy bar.

Give your student representing James a candy bar.

James said to Mr. Marshall, "It's just a rock."

"Oh, no," said Mr. Marshall. "This is a resurrection rock."

"What's that?" said James.

Mr. Marshall said, “Well, look at it closely and feel it. It’s smooth and it fits right there in your hand. You can keep it in your pocket if you want.”

“Why would I want to do that?” said James.

“Well, look on the outside of the rock,” said Mr. Marshall. “It’s marked with a cross.”

“So,” said James, “how is it a resurrection rock?”

“It works this way. When you worry about dying or not being good enough to go to heaven, reach in your pocket and feel the rock. It will remind you of two things.

First, the cross on it reminds you that Jesus died just for you and that your sins are forgiven. Second, the stone reminds you of the stone that was rolled away on Easter morning and the empty tomb. Jesus has power over sin – and death!”

James thought for a moment and then said, “That helps.”

Mr. Marshall continued, “Jesus’ friends and disciples were worried about death, but when they came to Jesus’ tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away, they began to understand that Jesus was alive. This proved something very important. This proved that all that was necessary for anyone to go to heaven had been taken care of.

When Jesus rose from the grave, he proved that all our sins had been forgiven and that he beat the power of death. If we think we have to be good enough to earn our way to heaven, we are wrong. Instead, all we have to do is believe that Jesus gave his life for us and was raised back to life from death. Once you trust him, all your sins are forgiven and you can know for sure that you will be in heaven with Jesus some day.

James had been listening carefully. He held his candy bar in his hand. But after thinking a bit, he said to Mr. Marshall, “Can I give you this candy bar back for the resurrection rock? I think I’d like to keep it.”

Mr. Marshall said he’d gladly give it to him “AND, you can keep the candy bar. So, just put the rock in your pocket and anytime you are worried, reach into your pocket and feel that rock. It will remind you of Jesus’ empty tomb and where you will be forever with him.”

James was feeling better. Maybe the resurrection rock was working already. Another child asked for a resurrection rock. “Me, too,” said another. Mr. Marshall said, “Why, don’t all of us make a resurrection rock?” With that, the kids all went and looked for a small smooth rock on which to paint a cross.

Would all of you like a resurrection rock?

This activity concludes having the children find their own rock and painting a cross on it to make their own “resurrection rock.” A sticker of a cross can be used instead of paint.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Because Jesus is alive, even if we die, we can be alive with him forever. Since he is alive, he is with us now wherever we go.

Who would like to share about a time they thought about Jesus being with them wherever they went?

As responses are heard, continue with the second question.

Who would like to share what they think it would be like living in a perfect world with Jesus forever? We can be with him someday if we trust him as our Savior.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- raw eggs in the shell
- three spoons
- a dyed hard boiled egg
- several sheets of newspaper spread on the floor

The Power of the Cross:

- a hidden dyed Easter egg in the gathering area

The Learning Game:

- at least two spoons (they may be plastic) per line
- Easter eggs (plastic eggs or hard-boiled)
- objects like chairs per team to run around
- masking tape to make starting line on the floor

Bible Presentation:

Option 2

Show a video or film. Choose one of the following recommendations:

- *The Miracle Maker*, Family Home Entertainment. 1999—available from <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00004WI56/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance&n=130&v=glance>
- *The Animated Stories from the New Testament – He is Risen*. Nest Family Entertainment, 1988, ISBN 1-56489-177-1—order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=HRD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=1&page_rec=20

Application:

- *Option 1:* Easter Craft—order Easter crafts from Oriental Trading Company, (www.orientaltrading.com) or S & S. Worldwide (www.ssw.com).
- *Option 2:* Easter Egg Hunt –eggs, candies, toys and containers for carrying
- *Option 3: Story*
 - candy filled plastic Easter egg for each child
 - one plastic Easter egg with a small smooth stone on which a small cross has been painted
 - a small rock for each student
 - paint and a paint applicator/brush for each student. *Option:* cross sticker for each child
 - large candy bar

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.