



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 43

Jesus Gives Life—Now and Forever

Primary Scripture: Acts 20:7-12 Eutychus is raised from the dead

Key Verse: 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?

When children have a relationship with Jesus, they have a life with him now and a life with him forever. We have proof of this in the numerous Bible accounts of dead people who were raised to physical life again. Such is the case when Paul raised Eutychus after he fell from a three-story window. Such accidents can keep us all mindful that, at any moment, our life might end. Though Jesus has the power to raise us to life back in this world, the greater life is with him in heaven. This truth should be certain: Jesus gives life now and forever. Today kids will be invited to receive this gift through faith.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through his death and resurrection, we have a resurrection with Jesus too.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives so that he might dwell in us and give us life with him now.

Jesus through us: As the life of Jesus reigns in our lives, we are eager to share that life with others so that they, too, might have eternal life in heaven.

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.

Props: table

Have a student sit on the table. Tell him/her to act out the part of a person slowly falling asleep while listening to the story until the appropriate point when he/she carefully falls off the table and onto the floor.

The following is adapted from Acts 20:7-12.

Paul's teaching

I would like to tell you a true story that happened in a late-night church meeting while the Apostle Paul was teaching. There was a young person named Eutychus who was sitting in a third story window. It was probably a warm night so it must have felt comfortable sitting there.

Eutychus listens

It was exciting because Paul was teaching about Jesus and all the wonderful things he did and would do for those who followed him. But the talking went on and on and on.

Eutychus gets tired

Eutychus yawned.

Address the audience and volunteer.

Can I see some yawns?

His eyes got droopy and tired. Does anyone have droopy eyes?

Paul talked on and on and on until finally Paul heard this sound.

Make a snoring sound then address the audience and volunteer.

Do I hear any snoring sounds?

Free fall

But when Eutychus fell asleep, he fell over and completely out of the window!

Have volunteer slowly roll off the table and onto the floor.

He fell three stories and landed on the road below. When everyone rushed down to see him, he was dead. Paul threw himself on the boy and put his arms around him.

Life is given

Paul assured the crowd, telling them not to be afraid. He exclaimed, "Eutychus is alive!" Eutychus then opened his eyes and really was alive! The power of Jesus working through Paul gave life to Eutychus. The people continued to talk through the night about this miracle until the next morning when Eutychus returned home alive.

Discussion

Afterward, what do you think the people remembered about the night they went to hear Paul? Do you think they remembered just being tired?

Allow for responses.

Have you ever been tired in church? Yes, it can happen, but I don't think that is what the people remembered. I think they remembered that Eutychus was once dead but was brought back to life. That's pretty exciting!

We will do our best to make worship as exciting as possible—every time we gather. How about if YOU do your best to stay interested and awake?!

Jesus has the power to make dead people alive! He also has the power to live in us today. So let's praise and worship him for that!

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.

Prop: a cross

Hold up the cross.

One of the most powerful symbols in the church is the cross. Why is that? *(It reminds us where Jesus died for our sins.)*

It is also a reminder of something else. Who is on the cross now? *(Nobody.)*

That is because Jesus is alive! Even though we can't see him, Jesus is here in this room. For any believer, Jesus is living in that person's heart. Even if we can't see him, Jesus has given us life with him now. When it finally comes time for each one of us to go to heaven, we will see him face to face. The best thing about heaven is being with him forever in a perfect place.

So this cross reminds us that Jesus gives us life now in THIS world and forever with him in heaven. Let's pray about that.

Jesus, thank you for reminding us that you give us life now and forever. This is possible because you died on the cross for our sins. Please forgive us for any way we haven't shown love to you or to other people. Don't let sin get in between us and you. Take our sin away and give us your life, now and forever. In your name, we pray. 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.

Supplies: a hula hoop or string to make a circle, offering basket

Use a hula hoop or make a string circle in front of the altar. Place an offering plate in the middle of the hula hoop or string circle.

When you bring up your offerings today, imagine that this hula hoop is a giant offering plate. You are not just giving your money to God, you are giving your life to him so that he can use you to share his life with others.

Even if you don't have an offering, come forward and stand in the offering circle and say, "I give you my life."



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.

Elbow Tag

Round One

Insert your kids' names where the examples are underlined:

Kids, everyone choose a partner. Now link elbows with your partner and spread around the room. We are going to play Elbow Tag. This is like regular tag. You have one person who is "it" chasing another.

Let me break apart this pair...

Select a pair and insert their names where underlined.

...Johnny and James. Do you know how to play tag? Johnny, you are "it." James, you run from Johnny trying to tag you. GO! Ohh-hh, Johnny just tagged James. That means that James is now "it" and Johnny tries to run away. Great demonstration.

But what about all these people linked together by their elbows? Here's what happens. Let's imagine that Johnny is "it" chasing James. For James to get away or be safe, he comes and links elbows with...

Insert another pair's names.

...Mary who is linked with Heather. Now, James is safe and can't be tagged. But Heather, who is on the outside of this threesome, now has to run from "it." If she is tagged, she will be "it" and will have to chase Johnny back.

But, where can she go to be safe? Correct. She can link elbows with another pair. Then the person on the outside of this threesome will run.

Round Two

Instead of only having one child chasing another, add a second pair of kids so that you can have two kids as “it,” each chasing their own “runner.” This means you’ll have four kids running at the same time, so encourage them to be careful so they don’t collide. This helps involve more kids but can become more confusing. Remind the kids to watch out for each other.

One way to keep track of who is “it” might be for the “it” kids to wear ball caps. If they catch their runner, they lay the ball cap on the floor as they make their escape and the one they just touched has to put the cap on as he/she starts to chase back.

Round Three

Everyone get back into pairs. Now, each pair must find another pair to join elbows with. That means there will be four people in each group. Spread out around the room. I’m going to take one group of four.... Heather, Mary, James, and Johnny.

I will divide them into two pairs. The pairs must stay elbowed together. James and Johnny, you are “it” and chase Mary and Heather. Mary and Heather can take off running, but must keep their elbows linked together.

Where can they be safe? If they link together with another group of four, they will be safe. Now I see they are linked with....Taylor, Jordan, Chandler and Marcy. As soon as Mary and Heather link with this group, the two on the opposite end must start running.

Chandler and Marcy, you start running and try not to get caught. But if you get tagged, you are “it.”

Teaching Point:

Who got tired during this game?

Who thinks they are the most tired? Why? Are you tired enough to fall asleep right here on the spot?

How does that question remind you of our Bible lesson for today? (*Eutychus was so tired during worship that he fell asleep and fell out the window.*)

What does this Bible event teach us? *(That Jesus has power over death!)*

So what will you remember from our learning game today? *(Even when we are sometimes tired at worship, we can be excited that Jesus has power over death.)*

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.

Supplies: video, The Crossing

On one occasion in the Bible, Jesus was visiting with Martha, one of his closest friends. Martha was sad because her brother Lazarus just died. Jesus knew that he would raise Lazarus from the dead. But he also wanted her and everyone to know that those who believe in him have life that lasts beyond this world. It is a life that lasts with him forever.

In 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?’”

Do YOU believe that? Do you trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you do, you have his life living in you now—AND you will live with him forever. You will also want to share this with others.

Watch this movie about teenagers who ask, “What is the most important thing in life?” This is a question we all need to answer.

Video

Show the video, *The Crossing*. Total running time: 31 minutes.

Synopsis: This is a story about the power of God’s forgiveness in the context of the love that sent Jesus Christ to the cross. A teenager named Jason must come to terms with life’s realities and the consequences of sin as he watches his best friend battle for his life over leukemia.

Prayer

If anyone is not sure about whether or not they have life with Jesus now and if they have life forever, you can be sure by placing your trust in Jesus Christ. We are going to thank God for providing a way to heaven. Pray with me in your heart as I say the prayer.

Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I need you in my life. I need your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for my sin and that you are alive right now. Come into my life and live in me so I can live for you. Thank you for doing this. I pray it, in your name. Amen.



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.

Invite some students to tell about the first time they trusted in Jesus as their Savior. If students don't respond to this invitation, be ready to share your own testimony of when you first responded to Christ's love and committed your life to him—and why.

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.

Your choice of music.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- table

Power of the Cross:

- a cross

Offering:

- hula hoop or string for circle
- offering basket

Bible Presentation:

- video, *The Crossing*, produced by: John Schmidt and Bill Muir—order from <http://www.upliftingpictures.net/movies/thecrossingvhs.htm>

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