



Date: _____

Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 49

Jesus Beat Death

Primary Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 55-58.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:55, 57, "Death, where is your victory? Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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

Kids are becoming much more aware of death during their elementary years. Many have real fears and questions concerning their own death or the deaths of loved ones. Today's lesson points to the defeat of death through Jesus' resurrection.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life in both physical death and spiritual death so we might experience a physical and spiritual resurrection when we die.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us the victory even now as we trust in him. His indwelling presence helps us know right now that we will live forever with him in heaven in perfect heavenly bodies.

Jesus through us: Because we know that our final destination is heaven, our lives are different. Therefore, Jesus says to us, *"Always excel in the work you do for the Lord. You know that the hard work you do for the Lord is not pointless."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

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 chairs

How many of you have been to a sports game where everyone cheered or yelled? It might even have been a game in which you were playing. I need some suggestions of teams so we can practice a cheer for them. Who has a favorite team (even a team you play for) that we could cheer on?

Take three suggestions. Have everyone cheer something like "Yea, Eagles!" or "Go, Cubs!", or you could do a longer cheer.

In worship today, we are cheering for something better than our favorite sports team. We are cheering for Jesus. He is the one who has already won. Do you know who or what he beat?

Take answers. The children will probably answer the devil, which is correct. Today we are focusing on Jesus' victory over death! Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-56.

"Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Okay, kids, yell it with me. Yea, Jesus! (Yea, Jesus!) You beat death! (You beat death!)

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.

Do the following sketch with a volunteer from the audience who is good at ad-libbing. This person can be selected beforehand and practice as the script is read.

Give the child these instructions: 1) Nod head when told to clean room. 2) Hold hand out as to quiet someone who is making fun. 3) Pretend to eat vegetables. 4) Act ashamed when finally doing something wrong.

Perfect Pat

There was once a boy named Pat—Perfect Pat. Perfect Pat always did everything perfectly. That’s why they called him Perfect Pat. He never did anything wrong and tried to do everything right.

When his mom told him to clean up his room, he didn’t argue, but did it willingly. (Child nods.) He did it perfectly. He was Perfect Pat. When others at school made fun of someone, he didn’t. (Child holds out hand for silence.) Instead, he spoke up for the one being teased. Why? Because he was Perfect Pat. At the school cafeteria, he even ate all of his vegetables...EVEN WHEN NO ONE WAS THERE TO MAKE HIM! (Child pretends to eat vegetables.) He was Perfect Pat.

Pat was perfect in almost every way until one day when he was walking home from school. On his way, he did something wrong...

Have another child in the audience fill in the blank about what Pat did that was not perfect.

Now Pat was no longer perfect. No more Perfect Pat. Just Pat.
(Child looks ashamed.)

Did you know that the Bible says sin is so serious, that only one sin would make us imperfect? One sin would be enough for us to receive the punishment for sin. Do you know what that punishment

is? It is death. If there were such a perfect person as Perfect Pat, who never sinned, then he would not die.

Pat may be seated.

Is there such a person? No. All have sinned and all will die. Sin is so serious that we die because we have sinned.

Does that mean there is no chance for us and we will all end up dead? No! God did something about death. He sent his perfect Son, Jesus. Jesus didn't deserve to die, but he did die, so he took death onto himself. When he did this, he swallowed up death. He defeated it. He rose again completely alive. He had a new body. Jesus had victory over death.

Did you know that if we trust in Jesus, his death, and his resurrection for us, then we also would have victory over death? We, too, will have a new body after we die. Let's go to Jesus in prayer and tell him about the things we have done that have kept us from becoming a Perfect Mike, Perfect Priscilla, or Perfect Richard.

Let's tell Jesus our sins and ask him to forgive us. That way when we die, he will give us victory over death. He will make us alive with a new body. Then we really will be perfect.

Pray a prayer of confession and announce forgiveness.

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.

When Jesus beat death, it cost him a great sacrifice. It cost him his own life. But he gave it up so we could live with him forever in heaven. This is what we remember today when we give our offerings. Jesus sacrificed for us.

One of the ways we can sacrifice for him is to give our offerings of money. When we give our money, we are giving up something important to us. God will take our offerings and use them to help others come to know Jesus as well.



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.

Can You Tell?—A Brainteaser

For round one of the game, the presenter says:

**Everyone is sad, it's oh, so bad,
For our friend is dead, it must be said,
But as to guessing who, it's up to you!**

The presenter allows guesses and comments from the audience. The first person who says a word immediately after the poem is the person who was the mysterious subject of the poem.

Reveal the victim's identity after several guesses. Repeat the poem until some kids catch on. Then disclose the secret. After the kids have discovered the secret or the secret has been shared, shift the game to round two. Here's the poem for the new round.

**Everyone is glad, so don't be sad.
Our friend once dead, is alive instead,
But as for guessing who, it's still up to you!**

The mystery "resurrection person" is not the first person that speaks out after the narrator finishes. Instead, it is the second person. After ample intrigue has been cultivated through the game, share the secret and the learning point. The learning point comes from 1 Corinthians 15:23: *"Christ is the first, then at his coming, those who belong to him will be made alive."*

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.

1 Corinthians 15:42-43; 51-58.

Application:

Have two volunteers portray a father and a son for the following skit. Two chairs to simulate a car are the only props necessary. Some rehearsal is necessary to dramatize the story with actions.

A second option is for the storyteller to act out key parts as he tells the story.

Where Is the Sting?

Part 1

Marcus and his dad were just getting into their car on a warm summer afternoon. They were leaving the cemetery where they had just laid some flowers on the grave of Marcus' grandmother. It had been a year since she had died and Marcus really missed her.

As he laid the flowers on the grave, Marcus remembered how much fun she was to have as a grandmother. She had still ridden her bicycle and they often went bike riding together. Now a year later, he still missed her. It was a strange feeling to imagine that she was no longer alive and somehow underneath that grave.

These thoughts were still with him as he closed the door of the car and turned to his dad to ask him, "Can you imagine Grandma being dead under that grave and everything?"

"No, son," Marcus' dad replied. "I don't see her that way right now at all. Let's talk about it as we drive home."

"It's hot in the car. Why don't I turn on the air conditioner. You can roll up your window, okay?"

"Sure, Dad," Marcus said as he stared out the window at the countryside peaceably passing by. Then he saw it on the dashboard—a honeybee. And it was looking right at him (or at least he thought it was).

"Dad, quick!" he hollered. "There's a bee. Do something!"

Now, if it seemed that Marcus was too scared or worried about a bee, there was a good reason for it. You see, Marcus was allergic to bee stings. One sting could make him so sick that he could even die. He screamed out in panic again. “The bee is flying around the car, Dad! I think it wants to sting me! What are we going to do?”

With a concerned look on his face, Marcus’s dad slowly pulled the car to the side of the road. When stopped, he calmly snatched the bee from midair flight!

“Good catch, Dad,” said Marcus right as his dad squeezed his eyes tightly closed for just a second. Then he opened his hand and let the bee go again.

“Dad, what are you doing? You just let that bee go, and now he will sting me!”

“No, Marcus,” his dad calmly said. “Look here in my hand. Do you see that little black thing in the palm of my hand where there’s red swelling? That’s the stinger of the bee. When bees sting, their stinger comes out of their tail. It sticks right into the person who is stung. But the bee doesn’t have a stinger to use anymore, so he can’t hurt you or anyone else.”

Marcus was quiet for a moment. Then he looked at his dad and said, “That means you took the sting so I wouldn’t get stung. Wow! Thanks, Dad.”

“Marcus,” replied his dad. “This is exactly what happened to Grandma. The Bible says, ‘Death where is your sting? Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ Jesus came and took the sting of death on himself when he died on the cross. When we die, death can’t keep us from living. Instead we live in heaven, face to face with God.

“Since Grandma trusted in Jesus as her Savior, the sting of death has been taken away. She is more alive right now in heaven than she ever was here on earth. And on the last day when Jesus comes back to earth in all of his glory, she will be given a new glorious body in which she will live forever.”

“Wow,” said Marcus. “Jesus took the sting of death for me, too! I guess I don’t have to be so afraid of dying either.”

“And what about the bees?” said Dad.

Marcus thought for a moment. “Well, I still think I’ll leave them to you, Dad. And thanks for taking that sting for me.”

“Strong Enough to Get You Out of the Hole”

Part 2

Several weeks after the bee sting episode, Marcus had a friend whose grandmother died. His friend, Jeremy, was sad and worried about going to the funeral. He didn't understand much about death or funerals or even Jesus, so he asked Marcus to come along with him.

Marcus wanted to be a friend to Jeremy so he said he would go to the funeral. Marcus stayed by Jeremy the entire time. Marcus was glad to hear them talk about how Jeremy's grandmother loved Jesus and trusted him as her Savior.

Jeremy didn't know much about Jesus or church stuff or what happens to people when they die. As they were riding home, it got very quiet in the car. Jeremy was thinking about how the box-shaped casket, which held the body of his grandmother, was placed right over a hole in the ground. Then the casket was lowered into the ground.

Jeremy asked, “Is that all that happens to you when you die? They put you into a box and then put you into a hole in the ground and that's the end?”

Marcus was quick to answer, “Yes, but Jesus is strong enough to get you out of that hole!”

Marcus' answer never left Jeremy. “Jesus is strong enough to get us out of the hole.”

At the conclusion of the story say:

Boys and girls, you can remember that too. Since Jesus beat death, we can trust him in everything. He is strong enough to get us out of any hole we get ourselves into!

Optional Conclusion:

Teach the children the following Jesus chant.

**Na...na, na, na. Na...na, na, na,
Na...na, na. Na....na, na.
Na....na, na, na. Na....
We're gonna clap our hands. x x xxx
Stomp our feet. x x xxx
Jesus, Jesus, x x xxx,
Can't be beat. x x xxx
(Repeat na,na, na's.)
Yea, Jesus!**



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.

Tell about a time that someone you knew died, but you knew that they trusted in Jesus as their Savior. What did you feel when you thought about that? Did you speak any words of encouragement to others at that time?

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.

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:

Application

- two chairs

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