



Date: _____
Series: Resurrection Sunday
Winter Year 2, Lesson 48

Resurrection Sunday

Primary Scripture: Mark 15:42-16:7. Jesus resurrection

Key Verses: Mark 16:6b, “He has been brought back to life. He’s not here. Look at the place where they laid him.”
Matthew 28:20 “And remember I am with you until the end of time.”

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

On Easter Sunday, often the message of the resurrection is upstaged by Easter eggs, new spring clothes and, maybe even, the Easter bunny. Children need to have a clear understanding of the meaning behind our Easter celebrations: *Jesus is alive*. He rose from the dead and showed us he defeated the power of death and the power of sin. Because he is alive, we know that we will live with him forever even after we die. This simple truth, that Jesus is with us, now and forever, is a foundational principle upon which children can build their faith.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life for us on the cross—suffering death for us, though he was perfect and did not deserve the pain of death. He took it on himself as punishment for our sin. His resurrection proves the sacrifice is complete.

Jesus in us: Because Jesus is alive, he promises his closest companionship. Through his Holy Spirit, he dwells in our innermost being.

Jesus through us: Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ours is a living faith. Jesus works through us to reach the world with his love.

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.

Special Note: *This lesson provides two options. One is primarily a film that may be viewed while the children have a special Easter snack. The second option is a Kids Church lesson based largely on the materials in the companion Kingdom Quest lesson. Since most churches on Easter will not offer both Kingdom Quest and Kids Church, duplication won't be much of a problem.*



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.

Option 1: Video—The Easter Promise (45 minutes)

Show the Easter video, The Easter Promise from Tommy Nelson, 1996. ISBN 0-8499-8731. Order from:

http://www.thomason.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=0849987318

Summary:

Jerem dreams of being a soldier for a king. He is thrilled to hear about the upcoming arrival of the true King, Jesus. Jerem, however, is fooled by appearances and soon rejects Jesus along with most of Jerusalem.

In a wonderful lesson about truth, appearances, and forgiveness, Jerem ultimately trusts in Jesus and witnesses the fulfillment of the greatest promise of all - the resurrection.

After viewing the video, discuss the following questions. Offer a candy prize for the person who can correctly answer the question. Choose questions that will fill the available time frame.

What did Jerem want to be like? *(A Roman soldier.)*

What did he like most about the soldiers he saw? *(They were strong and powerful.)*

Jerem was so excited about Jesus, the King of Kings, coming to Nazareth. What did he think this “king” would be like? *(Strong and powerful.)*

Why was he disappointed in Jesus when he arrived in Nazareth? *(He was riding a donkey, not a great horse and he carried no armor. Jesus did not seem to be very powerful.)*

When Jesus tried to help Jerem after he fell out of the tree what did Jerem tell Jesus? *(“I don’t need your help.”)*

What are some mighty things mentioned that Jesus had done? *(Raised Lazarus from the dead, made the blind man see, and calmed the stormy sea.)*

When Jerem saw Jesus and heard of the things he had done, how did his heart change toward Jesus? *(His heart was softened towards Jesus and he believed in him.)*

One thing that Jerem’s uncle warned him about was to, “Be careful who you listen to and who you put your trust in.” Why is that an important lesson? *(Some people can lead you down a wrong path.)*

Who are we suppose to put our faith and trust in? *(Jesus.)*

Elizabeth was so sad when Jesus died. But what incredible thing happened that caused them to celebrate? *(Jesus rose from the dead.)*

How does Jesus rising from the dead change our lives? *(He had victory over death. Because of this I can have victory over sin and live forever with Jesus in heaven if I put my faith and trust in him.)*

Jesus had no worldly weapons, but he spoke truth. How can truth be a powerful weapon in your life? Do people always like to hear the truth?

How might some people treat you when you speak the truth about Jesus?

Option 2: Full Kids Church Service

Much of this is based on the Kingdom Quest, Grades 1-4, Year 2, Lesson 48. The emphasis of this lesson is that Jesus' resurrection delivers us from our panic and fear.

Supplies needed: one inflated balloon

Blow up the balloon and tie it off in a knot. Invite a child forward and rub the balloon on the top of the child's head, to collect static electricity. Hold it above the child's head and watch the hair rise to meet the balloon. Ask the audience:

When I see someone's hair stand up, it reminds me of a certain feeling that I might have. Who wants to guess what feeling I'm thinking of?

Invite kids from the audience to guess. You may invite other children up to see how the balloon pulls their hair up, as well.

The feeling I'm thinking of is the feeling of panic or fear. This is a feeling you might have when something very bad happens to you or your family, and you don't know what will happen in the future.

Can you think of a time when you felt panic or fear? Who would like to tell what happened to them when they felt this.

Take two or three answers.

Today is Easter and Easter is the time when we know that Jesus takes care of the panic or fear we have inside us. That's because he overcame what most people are afraid of the most—and that is death.

When Jesus wasn't found in the tomb, the angel said, "He is risen, he is not here." Later Jesus showed himself to his disciples and they knew it was true. Jesus was alive. They didn't need to fear or panic anymore.

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: candles or flashlight

Turn the lights low or turn off all lights except one to create a dim room.

How many of you as small children were afraid of the dark? Did you every wonder why? Did you think it was because you didn't know what was out there? Or maybe you imagined monsters in the closet or creepy things under your bed that would get you.

There is another kind of darkness in our world. That's the darkness of our sin and the things we do wrong. It's also the darkness of death. Did you know that when Jesus died on the cross, even though it was the middle of the day, it became dark as night around him?

When those who knew him or were his followers saw the darkness, they thought the darkness had won. They were sad because they thought Jesus' death meant the end of him. They panicked and were afraid.

But is that true? Was that really the end of Jesus? No.

This is what happened. Jesus came alive!

Have someone turn the lights on.

And since he is alive, it shows that he defeated the power of death and the darkness of sin. When we trust in him, our sins are forgiven. We can be sure that we will live forever with Jesus, even if we die.

Lets give thanks to him.

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you gave your life for us. Even though it was a time of great darkness and many people panicked and were afraid, you made it clear to them and to us that you are alive. Because of that, we don't need to be afraid. You are with us wherever we go. Help us this Easter morning to remember your victory always. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want 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.

You might use an Easter basket for an offering plate. This will help the children remember the resurrection and the Easter celebration.



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.

Interactive Drama: “The Panic Button”

In advance, design the “panic button,” which might be an ordinary switch colored red. For a more dramatic effect, make a panic box in which the student volunteer would stand to act out his response of panic. When he presses the panic button, lights can flash, sirens can go off, or even the entire room can be darkened with the exception of a flashlight or strobe light aimed at the child.

The second switch is the “don’t panic button.” When this is pressed, other changes happen in the room. The room is darkened but another section is lit up. This is an area simulated to be a place where Jesus was buried and his burial clothes are found. This would be more dramatic when lit by a black light.

These two contrasting responses, the “panic button” and the ‘don’t panic button,” can be developed simply with little special effects or more elaborately for a sensational effect. Let the creativity of the people creating the props make their own personalized interpretation. The following script will help them get an idea of the sequence of action.

The resurrection of Jesus is proof that his sacrifice for our sins was acceptable. Because he is alive, he promises to be with us, especially when we are in a panic, nervous or afraid. The angel’s message to us is the same as it was to the first witnesses of the resurrection: don’t panic, Jesus is alive.

Invite a volunteer to come forward who will press a panic button and give expressions of panic. Prompt this to happen when recalling situations in which children might typically panic. This becomes more fun if the child dramatically overplays the response of panic.

Volunteers can audition their panic skills before one is selected to push the panic button. Once a volunteer is selected, they are brought to the place where the panic button is located. This could mean that they are within a panic box or simply standing in front of a table with the panic button in front of them.

Introduce this person as one who is going to demonstrate how we sometimes react with panic when certain things arise. The first example follows.

- **At school you forgot that this was the day you had a spelling test. You did not study at all. Now you are afraid that you might fail the test. What are you going to do? Will you press the “panic button?” Let’s pretend that, yes, you press the “panic button” and this happens.**

The person simulates cries of panic while lights flash and sirens blare. A spotlight is pointed at the child. After that scenario stops, the next panic scenario is introduced.

- **You are feeling sick. As a matter of fact, you are feeling so sick that you have a fever. You are burning up with fever. It hurts so much it feels like you are going to die. What do you do? Press the “panic button!”**

Again the panicked responses are invoked.

- **You got caught cheating at school. You knew it was wrong but it was so important to you to make a good grade. Your parents will find out but, what is worse, you feel so bad that you wonder if God can even forgive you. You decide to press the “panic button.”**

Panicked responses again.

After three scenarios of panic and pressing the panic button, present the “don’t panic button.” When this is pressed, the response is calm and the focus changes to a setting on the stage that has a table covered in white sheets (simulating grave clothes) and lit with black light. The room should be darkened at this point. The following description will help put this in place.

Wait a minute! In today’s Bible event, we are going to hear about some women who were panicked. They had just watched Jesus die. They had hoped he was the promised Messiah. They were sad and they were ready to panic. Instead of pressing the “panic button,” they were told to press the “don’t panic button.”

Let’s press the “don’t panic button” and see what happens.

As the child presses the don't panic button with a cross taped or attached to it, a special section on stage is lit up with black light. This reflects on grave clothes draped over a table. This reminds us of the empty tomb and that Jesus had risen just as he said.

This switch demonstrates to us that when we, by faith, reach out and touch the "empty" cross we are reminded that Jesus was victorious over all our sins and problems. He rose again and is alive to be with us now.

Bible Reading:

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.

Let's read from the Bible, Mark 15:42-16:7. As you listen to this reading, see if you can find when the women pressed the "panic button" and when they pressed the "don't panic button." (If you read this from the God's Word translation, verse six says, "Don't panic...")

Application:

Option 1: Puppet Presentation

The No-Panic Gordy Puppet Presentation

Gordy: Hey, Mr. King!

Mr. King: Hey, Gordy! Did you see the "panic button" and the "don't panic button?"

Gordy: Yeah, I saw it, but I don't get it.

Mr. King: What don't you get?

Gordy: Well, I get the part about panicking.

Mr. King: You do? Do you ever panic?

Gordy: Sure, I panic when I have to come up here on stage and I might forget my lines.

Mr. King: I know what you mean.

Gordy: I know you do because I panic when you forget your lines!

Mr. King: Well, I guess we all panic sometimes.

Gordy: What I don't get is the "don't panic button." What does that have to do with Jesus being alive?

Mr. King: Gordy, all of us face things that make us panic. They may be things that make us worried or afraid. It was like the women visiting Jesus' tomb.

Gordy: Yeah, they were worried and afraid!

Mr. King: Right. I think they felt panicked because they had watched Jesus die. So they did not understand when they saw the angel. At first, they really were ready to panic.

Gordy: How did they keep from panicking?

Mr. King: They pressed the "don't panic button."

Gordy: What's that?

Mr. King: That is when you know that Jesus rose again and is alive!

Gordy: How does that help you not panic?

Mr. King: Because Jesus is *alive*, he defeated the power of death over our lives and anything else that might worry us.

Gordy: But what if we still worry or panic?

Mr. King: We just remember that Jesus is alive and we ask him to be right with us. He helps us so we don't have to panic.

Gordy: I get it! That's the "don't panic button."

Mr. King: Yes! "Don't panic!" said the angel. "Jesus has been brought back to life."

Gordy: I think I get it!

Option 2: Application Activity:

Supplies needed: light switch template from appendix run on card stock for each child, crayons, markers and scissors.

Read the following story, "Taylor's Panic Button," while kids decorate a "don't panic button" switch plate. These are cut out of card stock and taped to a light switch in a child's room.

Taylor's Panic Button

Taylor had just moved into a new house. Well, it was not really a new house. Actually, it was an old house.

He liked everything about the house, except for one thing: the basement. The basement seemed old and creepy. It was only used for storage because it was dark and damp.

Taylor's new friends in the neighborhood even teased him about the old house and its basement. They told him stories that he did not really believe. But he thought about them. They were stories about how the owners before his family had kept creepy things in the basement. The kids said they kept creepy creatures, like monsters, in the basement.

Since Taylor did not like dark places or stories about creepy creatures, he very seldom went down in the basement. But on one particular day he had to go to the basement to get his sleeping bag. He and his friends were going to spend the night in a tent in the back yard. He was even a little scared about that. Though he did not tell anyone else, he was scared of the dark.

He made sure when he went down to the basement to get his sleeping bag that he left the basement door open and turned the light on. He made his way slowly down the stairs. The stairs creaked with every step. It felt cold when he got to the bottom of the steps. He felt a shiver down his spine.

There was only one light in the basement so it seemed dark and shadowy. He wanted to hurry and find his sleeping bag and get out of there. This place was creepy!

As he went to the shelf to find his sleeping bag, he heard his father's voice from the top of the stairs. His father was talking to someone else and said, "Who left this door open and the light on?"

Then it happened! The light went off and the door closed! He was surrounded by darkness. Taylor wanted to say something right away, but when he opened his mouth nothing came out.

Then he heard it. There was a growling in the corner. It was the creepy creature he had heard about! Again he opened his mouth. He wanted to press his own panic button. He wanted to scream or shout so someone would turn the light on, but he was too scared.

Then he heard the noise again. It seemed to be getting closer. It was a gurgling noise. Now he was in real panic. He was pressing the “panic button” inside but no screaming came out.

“What do I do?” he said to himself.

The gurgling noise was getting louder. It was getting closer. He did not think he could move. “What do I do?” he thought.

Then Taylor remembered what the angel said when Jesus was raised to life. “Don’t panic! Jesus is alive.” So he said to himself, “Don’t panic! I know Jesus is alive. Jesus be with me. Don’t let that creepy creature get me.”

Taylor reached his hand out in the darkness and started to move slowly. The gurgling noise followed him. Again he said, “Don’t panic! Jesus, I know you are alive and with me right now.”

He bumped into something. “Oh, no! What was that? Oh, it’s just an old suitcase.”

He continued toward the stairs. Finally, he was touching the wall. By then the gurgling noise had gotten louder. He wanted to panic but again he remembered that Jesus was with him.

Then his hand touched it. There was a light switch on the wall at the bottom of the stairs. He quickly flipped it on and looked back to the direction of the gurgling noise. He just knew that he would see the creepy creature crawling toward him. Nothing was there! He heard the noise again. Then he realized what it was. In the corner was the old hot water heater. It was making the gurgling noise. There was nothing to be afraid of after all.

“Thank you, Jesus. There is really no reason to panic. Thank you for being with me, even in this dark old basement.”

He quickly ran to get his sleeping bag and bounded up the stairs. He turned off the light and closed the door. His father was in the den and noticed the look of relief on Taylor’s face.

“Is everything okay, son?” he said.

“Sure, Dad,” Taylor said. “There’s no reason to panic. I’m just getting my sleeping bag for our backyard camp out.”

His dad responded, “I thought you were afraid of the dark. Isn’t it going to be hard to sleep in the backyard tonight?”

‘Oh, don’t panic, Dad,” Taylor replied. “I have someone with me. There is no reason to panic.”

If children are still decorating their light switches after the story is over, have them talk about their own stories of panic and what they can do the next time they feel panic. Then say:

These “Don’t Panic” buttons remind us that Jesus is alive and with us. When you switch on your light, you can remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He can dispel all of our darkness. When you press the “don’t panic” button, remember that Jesus is alive and pray for his presence.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, “*And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.*” Don’t panic—Jesus is alive!

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so glad that you sent Jesus to die for our sins. Your resurrection proved your might. We trust you with our lives. We thank you for saying you’ll never leave or forsake us. When we panic, we will turn to you for comfort. Thank you, thank you, thank you. In Jesus’ 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.

Tell about a time you were afraid and panicked. Then tell the kids that because Jesus is alive, he is with them always and will take away their fears.

Ask anyone to tell about a time when they prayed and weren't afraid anymore.

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.

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Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

Option 1

- the Easter video, *The Easter Promise* from Tommy Nelson, 1996. ISBN 0-8499-8731—order from http://www.thomasonelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=084998731
8

Option 2

- one inflated balloon

Power of the Cross:

- one flashlight or candles

Offering:

- Easter basket

Learning Game:

- panic button

Application

Option 2

- light switch from appendix run on card stock for each child, crayons, markers and scissors.

Switch Plate Template

