



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Now...
Spring Year 3, Lesson 49

Jesus Is Lord of Life

Take Home Point: *Jesus is Lord of life—we will live eternally. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-26, 42-44

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:14, “We know that the one who brought the Lord Jesus back to life will also bring us back to life through Jesus.”

We will help kids know:

- Jesus is like a seed that was planted. He died and was buried. But when he rose from the dead, it was like a seed sprouting into a plant and producing fruit. We are the fruit if we have faith in him.
- Jesus destroyed the power of death. It can't keep us from God. We will live eternally if we trust him.
- We will have a new spiritual body in heaven with splendor and strength.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident of God's power over death.
- Safe enough in their groups to talk about fears they may have of death.

We will help kids do:

- Examine their experiences and perceptions of death and how Jesus has conquered death and given us eternal life.
- Plant a seed to remind them Jesus is the Lord of life and we will live eternally.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children talk about funerals and share any personal experiences they have had with funerals and death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small bucket of dirt • styrofoam or paper cup
Large Group 	3 6 7 9	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Doesn’t Like Funerals”—Gordy tries to understand death and wonders how we can be alive after our earthly bodies die.</p> <p>Interactive Teaching: Two contestants see who can answer questions after listening to readings from 1 Corinthians. Jesus’ death is like a seed planted in the ground. He brings new life after death.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Doesn’t Like Funerals”—Gordy trusts Jesus to be Lord of his life. Jesus defeated death and all who belong to him will be made alive again with new spiritual bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sack or box • three or four apples • knife • Gordy puppet
Small Group Application 	5	Children plant a bean seed. Just like a seed needs to be buried before it grows and bears fruit, Jesus died and was buried before he conquered death by rising from the dead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apples and dip • small bucket of dirt • bean seeds soaked overnight • cups and napkins • markers, crayons, pencils • sandwich bag or plastic wrap • Appendix copied on cardstock and cut • tape

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 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.

Supplies: bucket of dirt, styrofoam or paper cup

Fill a styrofoam cup with dirt from the bucket. Then say:

Today as we look at this dirt, we are reminded of burials. After a casket is lowered in the ground, dirt is put over it. Have any of you been to a funeral? Who would like to describe what it was like and how you felt?

Let the children discuss. Give them plenty of time to talk about this topic. If they do not want to share or you find this a difficult topic for the kids to discuss, then ask this question:

Is this hard for you to talk about? Why?

Some people say that when people die, death wins. That is not what God says. He says that Jesus wins. Jesus has conquered death and he is Lord of life. Jesus has turned death into a doorway to eternal life. We will discover **Jesus is Lord of life—we will live eternally.*

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.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Doesn’t Like Funerals”—Gordy tries to understand death and wonders how we can be alive after our earthly bodies die.

Interactive Teaching: Two contestants see who can answer questions after listening to readings from 1 Corinthians. Jesus’ death is like a seed planted in the ground. He brings new life after death.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Doesn’t Like Funerals”—Gordy trusts Jesus to be Lord of his life. Jesus defeated death and all who belong to him will be made alive again with new spiritual bodies.

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.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-26, 42-44 in their Bibles.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, what did Scripture predict? *(That Jesus would die to take away our sins. He would come back to life on the third day.)*

How many people saw Jesus after he rose from the dead? *(1 Corinthians 15:5-6. Over 500 people)*

Do you think these people believed Jesus was the Son of God who had power over death after they saw him? *(Yes. These believers are some of the "fruit" produced from Jesus' death and resurrection.)*

According to 1 Corinthians 15:23, who will be made alive again? *(Those who belong to Jesus.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 and compare our physical bodies with our spiritual bodies. *(Our physical bodies decay; our spiritual bodies cannot decay. Our physical bodies have no splendor and are weak; our spiritual bodies have splendor and are strong. When our physical bodies are planted or buried, they come back to life as spiritual bodies.)*

How is Jesus' death and resurrection like a seed? *(He was buried after he died, but he came back to life again. This is like a dead seed...after it is buried in the ground, comes to life again as a new plant.)*

How are believers in Jesus like the fruit from a planted seed? *(Jesus' death and resurrection produces new life for others. We can live again and are replicas or images of Jesus. After we die, we will have spiritual bodies like Jesus.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: apples, apple dip, bean seeds (soaked over night), dirt, cups, sandwich bags or plastic wrap, card stock or paper (approx. 2" x 5") see appendix, markers, pens, pencils, tape

Enjoy apples and dip while doing the application activity.

Pass out paper or styrofoam cups and have kids fill them half full with dirt. Next, have them put a bean seed in the dirt and cover with more dirt. Cover the cup with plastic wrap so that the dirt doesn't spill. Have kids guess what kind of fruit they have.

Decorate a card/paper and write in the words: *Jesus, planted like a seed, brings eternal life to you and me.* Have kids tape this on the side of their cups.

Notice this bean seed we are planting. If it grows into a plant, what will it produce? Yes, it should be another bean that looks very similar to this one. I wonder how many beans it will produce. Let's guess and then see who from our group can get their plant to grow and produce beans at home.

How is this seed, in a way, like Jesus? *(The seed has to die and be buried in order to grow new fruit or life.)*

Just as Jesus died and was buried, he produced a crop of other seeds or fruit. These new seeds are like you and me who trust Jesus. We will rise again just like Jesus, and receive new bodies, just like him. We, too, will live eternally, even after we die.

We can be sure of this because it says so in the Bible. Our key verse from 2 Corinthians 4:14 says, "*We know that the one who brought the Lord Jesus back to life will also bring us back to life through Jesus.*"

Have kids take cups home and set them in windowsills to sprout. Restate the take home point: ****Jesus is Lord of life—we will live eternally.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending Jesus to die to take away our sins. But even more, thank him that Jesus defeated death when he rose from the grave. Because of this, we, too, will rise again after death and have eternal life. Ask God to help us not be afraid of death, but see it as a doorway to life in heaven.

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Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

Gordy Doesn't Like Funerals

Puppet Presentation

After Presenter and kids call for Gordy, he appears.

Gordy: Isn't it kinda weird that we are talking about funerals?

Presenter: It might seem weird, but death is a part of life.

Gordy: It's a part I don't like. I went to a funeral once and it was weird. My grandpa who used to be so much fun...he was inside that box thing and so still. It seemed so strange.

Presenter: Funerals can be sad because we say goodbye to loved ones.

Gordy: Yeah, and all the family and everyone around are talking about the person.

Presenter: Usually, they say lots of nice things about the person.

Gordy: I know what I want someone to say at my funeral when they are gathered around and looking at my body.

Presenter: What would you like to be said?

Gordy: Hey, look, I think I see Gordy moving. He's alive.

Presenter: Very funny, Gordy. But the reason we are talking about death today is because we will be alive after we die.

Gordy: But how do you know? When someone dies, it seems like it's the end. It's scary to me.

Presenter: Gordy, when you die, you leave your body. You can still be alive, but you just won't be living in that body anymore.

Gordy: Where will I be living?

Presenter: If you know Jesus as your Savior, then you'll be with him. And you get a whole new body.

Gordy: How do you know? Have you ever seen proof of this?

Presenter: Gordy, pay attention to today's lesson. I'll show you something no one has ever seen before. And I think you'll learn **Jesus is Lord of life—we will live eternally.*

Something No One Has Seen

Interactive Teaching

Supplies: sack or box, three or four apples, knife

Attention Grabber: Something no person has ever seen.

Come out with a sack or box that has apples inside of it.

**I have something inside of here that no human eye has ever seen.
Who wants to guess what it is?**

Take out an apple. The kids in the audience should respond that everyone has seen an apple.

That is not what I mean. This is what no eye has ever seen.

Take a knife and cut open the apple and show the seed.

No one has seen this particular apple seed before. That's because the seed was hidden inside the apple.

Point One: Seeds grow into trees or plants that then produce fruit. But first, they must be planted.

This apple seed can grow into an apple tree. How many apples do you think an apple tree produces? Over one hundred? Two hundred? How many apples can it produce in ten years? There could be over 1,000 apples. Is anyone hungry for an apple?

Say this as you cut an apple for yourself.

I've got enough apples for all of us. As a matter of fact, as many as you want. Who's hungry? Raise your hand.

Give someone the apple seed.

What? That doesn't work? Of course it doesn't work. That's because this seed has to be buried, and then, after some time in the moist dirt, it will sprout into an apple tree. Then there will be enough apples for everyone.

Point Two: Jesus is like a seed that was planted and produced fruit. People who belong to him will be made alive.

Invite two children up for a contest to see who can answer the questions first. Reward them with an apple slice for their participation.

Now we will see who can answer this question when I read the Bible. Imagine that Jesus is like a seed that was planted in the ground. That happened when he died. Then he rose again. That is like a seed coming to life and growing into a tree. The fruit on the tree are like other people who will come to life after they die. Who are these people? Listen carefully to the Bible reading and clap your hands once when you think you have the answer.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22, 23 says, *“But now Christ has come back from the dead. He is the very first person of those who have died to come back to life...As everyone dies because of Adam, so also everyone will be made alive because of Christ. This will happen to each person in his own turn. Christ is the first, then at his coming, those who belong to him will be made alive.” (Emphasis added.)*

Those who belong to him will be made alive. That means those who know Jesus as their Savior will be resurrected like Jesus.

Point Three: The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Let’s try another question. Listen to the reading, then clap once when you think you know the answer.

Who is the last enemy for Christ to destroy?

I Corinthians 15:24-26 says, *“Then the end will come. Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father as he destroys every ruler, authority, and power. Christ must rule until God has put every enemy under his control. The last enemy he will destroy is death.” (Emphasis added)*

Right, the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Point Four: The resurrected body comes back with strength and splendor. It is a spiritual body.

One last question. What will our bodies be like when we are given new bodies in heaven? Clap when you think you hear the answer.

I Corinthians 15: 35-37; 42-44 says, “*But someone will ask, ‘How do the dead come back to life? With what kind of body will they come back?’ You fool! The seed you plant doesn’t come to life unless it dies first. What you plant, whether it’s wheat or something else, is only a seed. It doesn’t have the form that the plant will have. ... (v.42 ff) That is how it will be when the dead come back to life. When the body is planted, it decays. When it comes back to life, it cannot decay. When the body is planted, it doesn’t have any splendor and is weak. When it comes back to life, it has splendor and is strong. It is planted as a physical body. It comes back to life as a spiritual body. As there is a physical body, so there is also a spiritual body.”*
(Emphasis added)

Our dead bodies come back with splendor and strength. They become spiritual bodies.

Gordy Doesn’t Like Funerals

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: *(presenters name)*, do you mean that we get a spritual body after we die? What will that look like?

Presenter: **I don’t know for sure. It will be perfect and strong. It might look like the body we have now since Jesus’ resurrected body looked familiar.**

Gordy: Right. I would sure hate to lose this look (*admiring himself*)...but, *(presenters name)*, something’s kind of bothering me.

Presenter: **What’s that, Gordy?**

Gordy: I wish I could see it all for sure. How do I know for sure if I will live eternally?

Presenter: **Gordy, you know Jesus, right?**

Gordy: Sure.

Presenter: **What do you know about him?**

Gordy: Well, I know that he is God’s Son. I know that he came to earth and died on the cross and came back to life again.

Presenter: **Why did he have to do that?**

Gordy: You know, it's the only way our sin could be taken away.

Presenter: Do you believe that Jesus has died to take away your sin?

Gordy: Yeah...I need his forgiveness a lot. So I ask him often.

Presenter: So, it sounds like he's your Savior. You trust him to take away your sin and trust him as your leader?

Gordy: Of course.

Presenter: Then you belong to him. Since he is Lord of life, everyone who belongs to him will have eternal life with him forever. That's why death becomes a door.

Gordy: What?

Presenter: Death is defeated. It becomes a door to eternal life instead of a dead-end!

Gordy: So funerals don't have to be so sad, do they?

Presenter: Not if the person knew Jesus who is Lord of life. Why don't you pray to close this time together, Gordy. Remember to pray for anyone who is not sure if they belong to Christ.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you that Jesus beat death and now is the door to eternal life. Jesus, you are Lord of life. If anyone here doesn't know you, help them trust and believe in you as their Savior. We all want to live eternally with you here on earth and someday in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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