



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is Lord of All
Spring Year 2, Lesson 49

Because Jesus Lives, We, Too, Will Live

Primary Scripture: Romans 8:11; 31-34; 38-39; and 1 Corinthians 15:12,20

Key Verse: Romans 8:11, "Does the Spirit of the one who brought Jesus back to life live in you? Then the one who brought Christ back to life will also make your mortal bodies alive by his Spirit who lives in you."

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

Elementary age children are in the process of grasping the concepts of death and life everlasting. Until age nine, most kids don't quite understand that death is permanent. Oftentimes when they do grasp this concept, they become fearful of death or even fearful of salvation. And yet, many younger children, who grasp that heaven is a place where we get to see Jesus, want to die right away so that they can go see him. These confusing perspectives can be clarified when a child encounters the resurrection of Jesus. Because he lives, we, too, will live. We will live with Jesus some day in heaven because of our trust in him. But Jesus has a purpose for us in this world until the time when he calls us to his heavenly home.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he promises us that, by faith in him, we will live with him in a very real way in heaven after our purpose on earth is finished.

Jesus in us: Jesus dwells within us through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can know the assurance of our life forever with him.

Jesus through us: Because Jesus beat the power of death and overcame its ability to separate us from God's love, we can live confidently. Sharing his promises can be a strong witness to the world around us about the reality of life everlasting.

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 a 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 needed: two glasses of water, salt, raw egg, spoon or stir stick

In advance, place several teaspoons of salt into one of the glasses of water. Stir well and wait for the water to clear. Remember which glass has the salt water, as it will be used to float a raw egg.

Demonstrate what happens when you place the egg in the plain water and the water with salt as you say the following:

Boys and girls, I have two glasses of water, as you can see, along with a raw egg. Some of you attending Kingdom Quest this morning already saw this. Please don't tell anyone the secret.

When I put the raw egg in this glass of (unsalted) water, we see it sink to the bottom just like you'd expect. This reminds me of what many people believe happens after a person dies. They believe that life has gone from the body and there is no longer any life. The body is then placed in the earth where it is buried. Many people believe that nothing happens and you don't become alive again in a new body.

But the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:12, "...how can some of you say that coming back from the dead is impossible?" This Bible verse also says, "...we have told you that Christ has been brought back to life."

Because of Jesus' resurrection, it's not impossible for him to bring back from the dead those who believe in him. It says in verse 20, "*But now Christ has come back from the dead.*" In verse 22, it says to those who believe, "*...everyone will be made alive because of Christ.*"

Retrieve the egg from the first glass.

So when some people say death is all there is, there is nothing but an empty body that gets buried...

Sink the egg one more time in the water, then retrieve it again.

God says there's much more to this life-death thing than meets the eye. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we, too, will rise.

Put the egg in the salt water. It will sink momentarily, then rise to the surface.

So, today we worship him -- *BECAUSE JESUS LIVES—We, too, will live.

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 needed: large sheet – paint small red cross on it, table, two books, raw eggs, glass or bowl, paper towels or damp rag to wipe hands clean

For this illustration, you will need a large sheet held high by two adults holding the top two corners. The bottom should drape to the ground with at least a foot of sheet resting on the floor to catch the egg. Paint or tape a small red cross on the center—like a target. Don't hold it close to any walls - at least four feet from any hard vertical surface. Set a small book on each of the two bottom corners of the sheet. Have several raw eggs available.

Sometimes we might feel like our life is like this egg. We know that it's fragile... that means that it can be broken easily.

Have a volunteer choose an egg, so kids won't think you are somehow controlling which egg is used for what. Break the volunteer's egg into a glass or bowl.

With just a little crack, all the contents can come out.

Everybody has been afraid, at one time or another, about dying. Maybe that's because we can't know what it will be like when we die. Sometimes we might worry too much and think about it too often. Maybe even then, Satan tries to make us think that we might die soon; or he says that we can't know for sure if we will go to heaven or if we are really saved.

Many people have these thoughts. God wants us to know better. He gives us the power of the cross, so that anytime we worry or are afraid, we can go to his promise that says because he died and rose again, nothing can separate us from him—*not even death*.

Listen to what he says in Romans 8:31-38,

“What can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? God didn't spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us. So he will also give us everything along with him. Who will accuse those whom God has chosen? God has approved of them. Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life... What will separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or violent death separate us from his love?... I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love which Christ Jesus our Lord shows us.”

Once again, some people might say, “It's impossible to know if we will still know God's love after we die.” But we can. It's just like taking this egg and throwing it against this sheet as hard as we can. Will it break?

After kids say whether they think it will break, throw the egg up against the sheet. It won't break but will come rolling back to the center. You might have a child do this as well.

Though it seems like it would have to break, it won't. That's like God's love, which will keep us even after we die.

Let's pray,

Dear God,

Sometimes we get shook up like that first egg and sometimes we get broken. We might even be afraid of death. Forgive us for the times we worry because we know that's not what you want. You want us to believe the promise of your word—that not even death can separate us from your love.

We praise you that Jesus rose from the dead. Because we believe and trust him as our Savior, we know that we, too, will have life with you in heaven some day. But that is not until it's your time to call us home. So help us to have confidence in you, even in the face of death, as we trust you. In Jesus' name. 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.

Use an empty egg carton as an offering plate.

The egg carton helps keep the eggs protected. So it is with God. His love is with us in all circumstances, in life and in death. Our offerings express “thank you” to God for his great love for us.

Tell about your current mission project.



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.

Option 1: “Egg Toss”

Supplies needed: paper towels or damp rags to wipe hands clean, raw eggs (one for each team and a few extras)

Take the kids outside and divide them into five teams. Each round of egg toss will require two players from each team. The first round will require that partners toss the egg back and forth from a distance of four feet. The second round will have two new partners from each team tossing the egg back and forth from a distance of six feet. The third round: two new partners tossing at eight feet. Fourth round – ten feet, and the fifth round – twelve feet. Each team gets one point for a successful toss and catch. If the egg happens to break during the round, another egg is given to that team so they can continue playing. Any eggs that fall on the ground and aren't broken can be picked up and tossed successfully for a point.

Learning point:

Throwing these eggs reminds us of some of the difficulties we face in life. Eggs are fragile and so are we. If dropped or mishandled, they can easily break. Sometimes our feelings are hurt – broken – by things that happen. But we have this promise from God. Romans 8:38-39, “*I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love which Christ Jesus, our Lord, shows us.*”

Even if we fall and are “cracked,” or even broken, God’s love is still with us “*We can’t be separated by death or life, by angels or rulers, by anything in the present or anything in the future, by forces or powers in the world above or in the world below, or by anything else in creation.*”

Option 2: “Egg Spin” Relay

Supplies needed: paper towels or damp cloths; two spoons and a raw egg per team; central object to go around, such as a chair, traffic cone, or person; have extra raw eggs available

Divide kids into an appropriate number of teams. Each team is given two spoons and an egg. The first child places an egg on his spoon and carries the egg carefully to a central object some distance away, where all teams must circle and return to home base. Caution them not to move too fast or turn so abruptly that they drop the egg. If an egg breaks, the person who dropped it must come and get another one, then return to the starting point and start his turn over. Once he returns to his teammate, he passes the egg from his spoon to the teammate’s spoon, without using any hands. When the first person has successfully passed his egg to the next person in line, he should give his spoon to the next in line and move to the back of the line.

Learning point is the same as the game above.

Option 3:

Same as Option 2, using plastic eggs instead of real eggs.

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.

Read Romans 8:31-35, 38,39.

Application:

“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. 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.

Now, 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 got to 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 minister, 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've 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’re worried 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, “Well, remember when the stone was rolled away? Jesus’ friends and disciples were worried about death, but when they came to the 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’re 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’re 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 we all get one?” 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.

Have children talk about a time they were worried or afraid of dying and how they feel better about it now because they know they believe what Jesus has done for them.

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.

Let the children come through a prayer line, holding their rock and thanking God for some of the promises they have received in Jesus. Let them also pray for other needs.

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:

- two glasses of water
- salt
- raw egg
- spoon or stir stick

Power of the Cross:

- large sheet – paint small red cross on it
- two adult volunteers
- table
- two books
- several raw eggs
- glass
- paper towels or damp rag to wipe hands clean

Offering:

- empty egg carton

Learning Games:

- paper towels or damp rags to wipe hands clean

Option 1:

- raw eggs (one for each team and few extras)

Option 2:

- two spoons and a raw egg per team
- central object to go around, such as a chair, traffic cone, or person
- have extra raw eggs available

Option 3:

- replace raw eggs with plastic eggs

Application

- 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
- cross sticker (*optional*)
- large candy bar

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