

The Resurrection

Scripture: Matthew 28:5-6 - And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Opening Song: Jesus Has Risen (PCS #70)

Lesson: Hold a picture of Jesus the Christ, face down in your lap. Tell the children that you are going to talk about someone who is very important. Ask the children to guess who this person is after you give them the following clues:

1. This person loves everyone very much.
2. He lived on the earth long ago and organized his church.
3. He taught us how to live and be happy.
4. He blessed people and told them to be kind and loving.

When the children have guessed (or you have told them) that the person is Jesus, display the picture.

When Jesus was on earth he taught people, healed them and told people how to return to Heavenly Father. Many people who lived during Jesus' time on earth loved him. However, some people did not like Jesus. They did not believe he was Heavenly Father's son.

The people who didn't like Jesus were very mean to him. They didn't want him to teach and lead others. They were afraid he would become too powerful. They decided to kill him.

Put up flannel piece with Christ praying. Ask what Jesus is doing in the picture. Then explain that before Jesus died, he went to pray in a place called the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus suffered there for our sins so we could repent and be forgiven of the wrong things that we do. Jesus was the only person who had the power to do this for us. He did it because he loves us so much.

Put up flannel piece of Jesus on the cross. The next day wicked soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet and hung him on a cross. They left Jesus on the cross until he died. When Jesus died, his spirit left his body and went to heaven. Remind the children that each of us has a spirit. Our spirits cannot be seen, but they are what make us alive.

Put up flannel piece of the tomb. The people who loved Jesus took his body and wrapped it carefully in cloths. They carried Jesus' body to a tomb (a cave-like place where people were buried) and gently laid his body there.

Put up the women at the tomb. Three days after he died, Jesus' friend Mary went to see his body, but it was gone. She thought someone had taken his body away. She was sad. *Put up Jesus.* Then Jesus came and spoke to her - he was resurrected. When Jesus died, his spirit left his body. When he was resurrected, his spirit came back into his body.

How do you think Mary felt when she saw her friend, Jesus, was alive again?

How do you think we will feel when we get to see our friend and brother, Jesus Christ, again?

The day Jesus was resurrected was the first Easter. We celebrate Easter each year to help us remember that Jesus was resurrected. Because Jesus suffered for our sins in Gethsemane and was resurrected, each of us will be resurrected and can return to live with our Heavenly Father again.

Pass around a basket containing items that represent the true meaning of Easter. Have your children take turns picking up an item from the basket and then tell what the item represents in the Easter story. Choose from the following ideas or select your own Easter symbols to place in your basket.

A small twig with leaves - The garden of Gethsemane where Jesus suffered for our sins

A nail - His crucifixion

White cloth - His burial in the tomb

A small, round, flat stone - The stone that covered the borrowed tomb

A regular cooking egg - Life within the tomb

Flowers - The resurrected Christ's appearance to Mary in the Garden near the tomb.

Bear your testimony: about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Express gratitude that we can return to live with Heavenly Father again because of what Jesus did for us.

Closing Song: Did Jesus Really Live Again? (PCS #64)

Activity/Treat: Make Resurrection Rolls with your children.

- One can of crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows (or one for each roll you'll be making)
- Melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Unroll the crescent rolls and place on a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Explain that this is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in. Give your child a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus, all white and pure because He was without sin. Roll the marshmallows in the melted butter. This symbolizes the embalming oils. Roll the marshmallows in the cinnamon sugar. This is like the spices used to prepare his body for burial. Wrap the marshmallow in the crescent roll cloth, pinching the dough together securely. This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body. Put the rolls in the oven (symbolizing the tomb) and bake for 12 minutes. When they're cool enough to handle, break one open and discover what happened to the marshmallow.

JESUS IS RISEN!

(Treat idea from - <http://eatatallies.com/2011/04/resurrection-rolls/>)