



48. Resurrection



Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:19-21, 1 Corinthians 15:12-14

Jesus rises from the dead and appears to his disciples



To help the children understand the events of Easter Sunday and their significance.

To allow them to reflect on the hope Jesus' resurrection gives us. Jesus' death was not the end. On the third day he rose to life, and he promises eternal life for those who trust in him.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- What do you think it would have been like to be one of Jesus' friends witnessing his resurrection?
- What difference does Jesus' resurrection make for you today?
 Take some time to pray for your group.



Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

Unbelievable

Read out some statements to the children. They all sound unbelievable, but which ones do they think are actually true? You could get them to put up their hands to vote on whether they think they are true or false, or get them to move to one side of the room if they think it's true and the opposite side of the room if they think it's false.

Owls are the only birds that are able to see the colour blue.

A cockroach can live for a week with its head cut off.

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

A man in America holds the world record for the most Big Macs eaten – he has eaten over 30,000!

More people are killed by vending machines each year than by sharks.

Someone once hiccupped non-stop for 68 years!

At the end of the game, tell the children that all the statements are true. If they are still doubtful about that, ask them what they could do to look into things if they wanted to find out for sure.

What would it take to make them believe that something that seems unbelievable is actually real?

Have you ever seen something that your friends or family found hard to believe?

(continued overleaf)

Eye Witnesses

You will need: tray, cloth to cover it, several small objects (e.g. pencil, key, match, earring... - you could also use some of the items from the eggs used in last week's story to link back to that), paper, pens or pencils

Show the children the tray and give them a minute or so to examine the different objects. Then cover the tray, give them paper and a pen or pencil and get them to write down as many of the different objects as they can remember. They could do this individually or in pairs. After a couple of minutes, get them to go through their lists and see who has managed to remember the most objects correctly.

If you have time, you could also let them take turns to remove one object from the tray without the others seeing, and see who is able to identify the missing object the quickest.

Spot The Difference

You will need: spot the difference pictures (you can find examples online by doing a Google Image search for 'Spot the difference'), pens or pencils

Give out the images to the children and see if they are able to spot all the differences between the two similar pictures.

This activity could work well as the children gather, to occupy those who arrive early until the others join them.

Easter Games

There are several Easterthemed games included in Session 20 of One Big Story.



Recap/ Intro

We heard last time about how Jesus was put on trial, then

taken away to be beaten and whipped by soldiers. After that he was crucified - nailed to a cross and left to hang there until he died.

We thought a bit about how Christians believe that Jesus' death was part of God's plan and that he died as a sacrifice for all the wrong things in the world, so that we could have the chance to be forgiven and to know God.

At the end we heard how, after Jesus died, his body was taken and put in a tomb. Some women who were Jesus' friends watched to see where his body was taken. They wanted to put oils and spices on his body, but it was time for the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest, so they had to go home and wait until the Sabbath was over before they could do this.

Today we're going to think about the events that Christians remember on Easter Sunday.

Easter Story Drama

You will need: shawls, perfume bottles, words for angel (from additional document: Angel Words), angel wings (optional), folded sheet to represent grave clothes

Choose people to be two women, an angel and Jesus. Give the two women shawls and perfume bottles; give the angel words to say, and wings if you have them.

Get them to act out the story as you tell it, encouraging them to do suitable facial expressions etc. to show how the characters would have been feeling.

Get the children playing the women and Jesus to stand at one side of the room and the angel to stand at the other side of the room beside the folded sheet.

Early on the Sunday morning, the women got ready to go to

Jesus' tomb to put oils and spices on his body. (Get them to begin moving across to the other side of the room.)

As they walked there, they were still very sad about what had happened to Jesus, but then they realised there was another problem. Jesus' tomb had been covered by a heavy stone, and they knew there was no way they would be strong enough to move it by themselves. They weren't sure what to do, but they kept on walking towards the tomb.

When they got there, they got a massive surprise. The stone was already rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, and when they looked inside, Jesus' body wasn't there! They wondered what could have happened.

Suddenly an angel appeared and spoke to them- "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here. He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come and see the place where his body lay."

The women looked and they saw the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in, but there was no sign of Jesus himself. They were puzzled and they weren't sure what to make of the angel's message. Could it really be true? Could Jesus really be alive?

The angel spoke to them again

- "Go quickly and find Jesus" disciples. Tell them that he is risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you to Galilee and you will see him there."

The women still weren't sure whether it was true, but they rushed to find Jesus' disciples to tell them the news.

As they went, they met someone on the road - it was Jesus! They were able to see for themselves that it was true. He was alive. They felt the marks in his hands and his feet where the nails had been and they could see that it was really him. Jesus told them to go and tell his disciples and that he would see them later, so they rushed off, full of joy.

That night, most of Jesus' disciples were together. (You could get the children to imagine that they are all part of this scene.) They were in an upstairs room with the door locked because they were frightened of the people who had arrested Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus was there with them and, although it seemed unbelievable, they knew it was true- he was alive!

Finger Puppet Story

You will need: washable pens, wipes

An alternative way of telling the story, using the script above, is to draw faces on your fingers to represent the different characters. You can then tell the story popping each character up or down as they appear and disappear from the story.

When you are finished you could let the children draw faces on their fingers and let them find a partner and practice telling the story to one another.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Reflection/ Prayer

You will need: Bible, scratch art sheets with scratch tool (you can find these at Baker Ross or on Amazon by searching for 'scratch art' - there are various options available such as doodle sheets, bookmarks, or crosses). An alternative is to make your own scratch art sheets – you can find instructions here:

https://

www.creativeramblingsblog.co m/scratch-art-paper/

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate that although Jesus died, he came back to life again on the third day. Christians believe that this shows that God's power is stronger than the power of death and that Jesus defeated death. Just like he died and rose again, Christians believe that although we will all die one day, we can have the hope of eternal life with God by trusting in Jesus.

Jesus' resurrection is one of the most important beliefs for Christians. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 to help explain why.

Give out scratch art sheets to the children. Explain that although it must have seemed very dark and hopeless for Jesus' friends when he died, it was not the end as he rose to new life. Let the children use the scratch tool to scratch away some of the darkness and reveal the colours underneath as they draw a picture or write something to remind them of what Easter is all about.

Lead them in prayer, thanking God for his power and for the hope of eternal life with him.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Easter Cross Craft

You will need: cross outlines and pictures printed from https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2016/03/25/easter-picture-

2016/03/25/easter-picturecross/ coloured pens or pencils, glue sticks, scissors

This is a craft that the children could make over Sessions 45-48 as they explore the Easter Story. Each week they can colour

the corresponding picture(s) to add to their cross. By the end of the four weeks they will have an Easter decoration to take home which will remind them of the story. For this session, they should add pictures A and D.

► God's Story Video

You will need: equipment to play video

This short video could be used as a recap of the Easter Story. It summarises what the children have been exploring over the last few weeks, and also points ahead to the next session of One Big Story.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ4gQniUVO8