



# HOLY WEEK

Date: 4.20.25 | Title: Jesus' Resurrection |  
Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-48; John 20-21

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

- Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to save us from our sins.
- He rose from the dead three days later to give us eternal life.
- God had planned to send a savior, Jesus, from the very beginning.
- Jesus' death on the cross is the death that we deserved. Because of His sacrificial death, we can be made right with God by believing in Jesus.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God.

### High School Students:


- From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.
- God's salvation is eternal, and once we are adopted into God's family, nothing can separate us from Him.
- Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, we who believe in Him will rise from the dead at His return and spend eternity with God.
- Because Christianity involves following Christ, we should continually live in obedience to His commands as an expression of our faith.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

"If you confess (declare) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9



# HOLY WEEK

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

**- Start with a question: Ask the group:**

“What are some things in life that completely change everything when they happen?”

(Let them answer—examples could be learning to drive, moving to a new city, the invention of the internet, etc.)

**- Shift the focus: Say something like:**

“Now imagine one of the most important events in history never happened. How would things be different?”

**- Ask this key question:**

“What if Jesus never rose from the dead—how would that change Christianity?”

Let them think and share their answers. (They may mention things like: we wouldn’t celebrate Easter, we wouldn’t have hope of eternal life, the disciples wouldn’t have spread the Gospel, etc.)

**- Wrap it up: Tie it into the lesson with something like:**


“Today we’re going to look at why the resurrection of Jesus isn’t just a cool story or tradition—it’s the turning point of our faith. If Jesus stayed in the grave, everything would be different. But He didn’t—and that changes everything for us.”



# HOLY WEEK

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After Jesus' resurrection, He appears to a diverse group of witnesses in various places. A group of women come to the tomb near dawn, with Mary Magdalene possibly arriving first (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1-3; Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1). Mary and the other women are met by two young men, angels, one of whom acts as the spokesman and announces Jesus' resurrection (Matt. 28:2-7; Mark 16:4-7; Luke 24:2-7). The women leave the garden with a mixture of fear and joy, at first unwilling to say anything, but then resolving to report what has happened to the disciples (Matt. 28:8; Mark 16:8). Mary Magdalene may have dashed on ahead, telling Peter and John in advance of the arrival of the other women (John 20:1-2). Jesus meets the remaining women en route and confirms their commission to tell the disciples, along with His promise to meet them in Galilee. The women obey (Matt. 28:9-10; Luke 24:8-11). Peter and John, meanwhile, returned to the tomb after hearing Mary's report and discovered it to be empty (John 20:3-10; Luke 24:9-12). Mary Magdalene also returns to the tomb after Peter and John have left. She sees the angels and then Jesus, although she initially supposes him to be a gardener (John 20:11-18). Later that afternoon, Jesus appears to Cleopas and his unnamed companion on the road to Emmaus and, in a separate incident, to Simon Peter (Luke 24:13-35). That same Sunday evening, Jesus appears to ten of the disciples (the Twelve minus Judas and Thomas) behind locked doors in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23). A week later, he appears to the eleven disciples in the same setting, with Thomas present (John 20:24-29). Further appearances take place over a forty-day period, including in Galilee to the disciples and to over 500 seeing Him altogether (John 21; Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:3-8). In a climactic commissioning in Galilee, Jesus instructs the disciples to spread the news throughout the world (Matt. 28:16-20). Perhaps only shortly thereafter, Jesus gives his parting instructions to await the coming Holy Spirit and ascends into heaven (Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:4-11).



# HOLY WEEK

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-48 and John 20-21

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

**Retell the Bible Story:**

Last week, we learned that even though Jesus never did anything wrong, He was sentenced to die like a criminal. He was beaten and crucified on a cross in our place. Jesus died the death we deserve because of our sins. All of this was part of God's perfect plan for salvation. The Friday and Saturday after Jesus' death seemed hopeless, but Sunday came. Today, we will learn about one of the most wonderful and amazing stories in all of the Bible, Jesus' Resurrection!

On the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. It was still dark, and she saw that the large stone at the entrance had been moved away. Mary ran to Simon, Peter, and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw the linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went into the tomb and saw the linen clothes, too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive.

Then Peter and John went back home.

Mary went back to the tomb and cried. When she looked inside, she saw two angels sitting there. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "Because they've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put Him," she said. Then Mary turned around. Jesus stood in front of her, but she did not recognize Him.

Jesus said, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary thought Jesus



# HOLY WEEK

might be the gardener. She replied, “Sir, if you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you’ve put Him, and I will go get Him.” Jesus said, “Mary.”

Mary realized who He was and said, “Teacher!”

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said and told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”

Meanwhile, some of the guards from Jesus’ tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders everything that had happened. The leaders got together and made a plan. They gave the soldiers a lot of money and told them to lie about what they saw.

After word spread that Jesus had risen, wicked men tried to lie about Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus later appeared to over 500 people after He was raised from the dead. Jesus died for our sins, but He is more powerful than death. Jesus rules over everything and came to save us and give us eternal life.

**Re-tell the Bible Story:** put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

**Share the GOSPEL:** Jesus died on the cross for our sins but didn’t stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead on the third day to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life. The same miraculous power at work in the Son is still working within those who call upon His name for salvation from sin.



# HOLY WEEK

## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

### Storying Questions:

The days following Jesus' death must have been very difficult for the disciples and those who loved and followed Jesus. After His death, Jesus was placed into a tomb that was sealed with a large stone. **Why did the chief priests and Pharisees ask Pilate to place a guard in front of Jesus' tomb?** Read Matthew 27:63-64. The chief priests and Pharisees remembered that Jesus had said He would rise on the third day. They did not believe this would really happen, but they wanted to make sure Jesus' disciples didn't steal Jesus' body, pretending that Jesus had risen from the dead.

On the third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene went to His tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. Mary ran and told the disciples what she had seen. Peter and John raced to the tomb, saw that it was empty, and went back to their homes. Mary stayed weeping outside the tomb because she thought someone had taken Jesus' body. **Who did Mary Magdalene see as she stood by the empty tomb?** Read John 20:12-16. Mary first saw two angels and then she saw Jesus. Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first, but as soon as He spoke her name, she knew it was Him and that He was alive.

**How can you tell others, like Mary did, that Jesus is alive and that He saves?**

**God's ways are very different from our ways. What are some surprising things about how Jesus came to earth to save us?**



# HOLY WEEK

**Did Jesus' followers expect Him to rise from the dead? How do you know they didn't? Why should they have expected Him to rise?**

**When the women told the disciples that Jesus was alive, did they believe them? What convinced them?**

**How many people did Jesus appear to over 40 days? Why was it important for many people to see Jesus with their own eyes after He rose?**

**What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?**

**What does the story teach me about myself?**

**Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?**

**Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?**

**How does this story help me live on mission?**



# HOLY WEEK

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for Your perfect plan of salvation. Thank You that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have forgiveness from sin and gain eternal life with You. Help us share this good news with others. Amen.

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

Have students walk through a timeline of the resurrection starting with Jesus being buried.

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after Sunday School.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

IYCWYMTJILABIYHTGRHFTDYWBS - Romans 10:9





# HOLY WEEK



## Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



# HOLY WEEK



## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?



# HOLY WEEK

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.


**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



# HOLY WEEK

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.