

Salem Kids EASTER Series 2020

Schedule & Topics

April

- **12th** - Hallelujah! He Has Risen! (Luke 23-24)
- **19th** – The Story of Easter Sunday (Matthew 28:1-10)
- **26th** - Hope in Holy Week (Mark 14:22-24)



Hallelujah! He Has Risen! Luke 23-24

April 12

Written by [Kristin Schmidt](#) for Ministry-To-Children.com

Easter, to Christians, should be the most important celebration of the year. After all, Easter reminds us of what Jesus did and how He rose from the dead. It reminds us that God fulfilled His promises and sent a savior. Sometimes we go through the motions and forget why Easter is so significant.

This lesson should help little ones understand the basics of God's plan and prophetic conclusions, in order to help them appreciate the holiday beyond eggs and chocolate bunnies.

Lesson focus: Jesus died to take on our sins; His resurrection completed what God had intended from the beginning.

Passage: Luke 23:44-24:12 (ESV listed for reference)

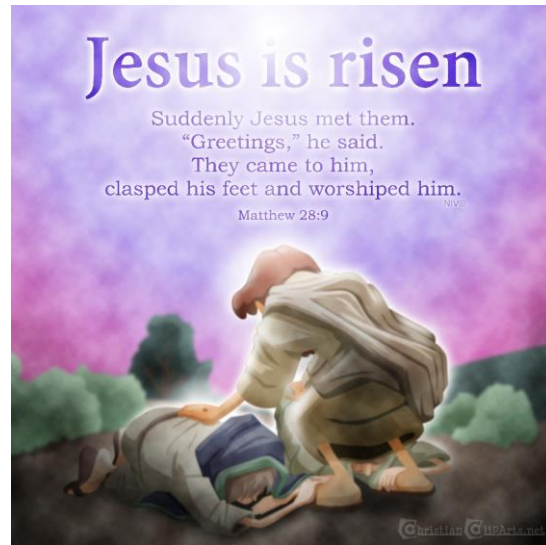
Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th Grade (adaptable older or younger)

Materials Needed: Pieces of cloth; paper plates; paper; cups; present or gift bag

Lesson Opening: Use a couple of activities to open the lesson, starting with an outdoor game (if available facilities), and then enjoying a quieter illustration activity:

Game: are you alive? Have students line up on one end of a field, with one chosen participant standing or sitting at the other end of the field, with back to the others. Students quietly walk towards the "sleeper", whispering or saying "are you alive?" At a chosen moment, the "it" will come to life and chase the others, trying to tag them before they run back to their side. If tagged, they join "it" in the chase. Otherwise, continue creeping toward "it".

Taking on sins... have students sit in a circle, and hand each one a stack of post-it notes. Ask them to write down on the notes things that would be considered bad or sinful. As they write, have them place the post-its on themselves. Explain that we deserve punishments for the bad things we do. In the Old Testament, people had to select an animal to kill in place of their evil doings. Have the kids put their post-its on a stuffed animal. Should we destroy this animal to take care of our sins? Well, that seems strange...instead, take the post-its on yourself. Watch student reactions as you "wear" their transgression post-it notes. Explain that this was why Jesus came. And His death was not a random event. God had in mind all along how He would save people.



Sunday School Lesson for Easter

Show students a gift package, or a gift bag with a tag that says "do not open until Easter." Ask them what they would think about getting a Christmas present that could not be

opened until Easter. That seems sort of a lengthy wait! Explain that today we are celebrating the story of Easter. The beautiful thing about Easter is that it is the conclusion of the story that starts at Christmas. With Advent and Christmas, we celebrate how Jesus was born. But what was He born for? Ultimately, to take on our sins and die, so that we wouldn't have to suffer. He did nothing wrong but was punished for what we did. With His resurrection, He had victory over sin and Satan. Invite students to look at some of the details of the story.

*note: for older students, you may look over some of the prophetic verses, and see how they were fulfilled in Christ. For younger kids, just mention how the things Jesus did had been predicted and talked about even before He was born.

Review the events leading up to the death of Jesus. Details may depend on previous lessons and how much you have already covered regarding the trials and crucifixion. Look at the verses depicting Christ's final moments:

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. 49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things. -Luke 23:44-49

Give students a small piece of cloth. Explain that, back before Jesus, when people made animal sacrifices, they had a special room in the temple where they could "meet" God. This special room could only be entered under very special circumstances, on a certain day by a certain person, and there was a curtain separating it from the other parts of the temple. When Jesus died, this curtain was torn apart, because Jesus made it so that we can always be in God's presence, without any curtains hiding Him! Have students tear their cloth apart. Continue with the burial of Jesus:

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man,⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. -Luke 23:50-56

Explain that people in Bible times often had reserved tombs where they could be buried. Someone (with a lot of money) had a family grave, and wanted to offer his tomb for the body of Jesus. He had special linens wrapped around the body and put a huge rock over

the tomb. This man wanted to make sure no one tried to take or damage the body. He cared about Jesus and what would happen to Him. It was a Friday when Jesus was killed, and the next day was the Jewish Sabbath. This meant everyone had to rest and could not work. There were some women, though, who loved Jesus very much. They wanted to anoint His body with special oils. They went on Sunday (the third day) to do so, and found an interesting and intriguing surprise:

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

-Luke 24:1-12

Even though prophets had foretold the Messiah, and Jesus Himself told people what would happen, the disciples and followers still didn't quite expect or anticipate what they would find when they went to the grave. The three women who first encountered the empty tomb were so excited that they ran to tell the others, who didn't even believe the story. It is significant that Peter, who had denied his Lord a few days before, was the first to inspect the tomb and marvel at what had happened.

When they saw the tomb and heard the angels, Mary, Joanna and Mary finally put the pieces together, and to an extent realized what was going on. Everything prior to this event was preparation. Everything after (the rest of the New Testament) happened in order to tell the world about Jesus. He is the central point of it all. If this is true of God's word, it should be true in our lives. Our faith rests on the resurrection. Easter is about much more than candy and egg hunting. We don't need to look for Jesus; He has risen! He's just as alive in our midst and in our hearts today as He was on that first Easter morning. Let us rejoice! Let's practice sharing that good news with others.

Craft options:

Make an empty tomb: have students use dark colors to decorate a paper plate, cut in half with an extra hole cut from the center. Provide large pom-poms or have students crunch paper into a ball to glue on as a "stone", and attach a cross made from two popsicle sticks, as well. Include a verse caption and remind students of the beauty of the empty tomb!

Creative cross: provide cardstock or paper crosses. Allow students to color and decorate with glitter or tiny tissue pieces.

Jesus wins trophy: have students decorate cups or trophy-shaped items, and attach a

caption of “Jesus wins the victory! He is risen!”

Close with prayer and thanks to God for sending Jesus to save us. Ask for joy in remaining to be “Easter people” and celebrating the work of Christ, and for courage in sharing God’s great love and gospel message with other people.

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The Story of Easter Sunday (Matthew 28:1-10)

April 19

This free Children's Church lesson plan was first written for elementary aged students. It goes over the story of Easter Sunday. This material could also be used as the Bible lesson plan for children's Sunday school. Be sure to consider your own ministry context and modify it as needed. Look for additional teaching ideas and resources linked at the bottom of this page. There is also a preschool version of this lesson plan.

Bible Story: The Story of Easter Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28

Target Age Group: Kindergarten – 5th grade

Learning Context: Children's Church or Sunday School **Target Time Frame:** 40 minutes

Learning Objectives: After this lesson, the children will demonstrate an understanding of the story by recalling the Easter story.

Items Needed:

Playdough, blocks

Resurrection Eggs, Resurrection Eggs Story Booklet (PDF download), we also have a video craft project for making Resurrection Eggs.

1 paper plate per child, black crayons, brown crayons, one picture of an angel (PDF download) per child, 1/2 sheet brown construction paper per child, stapler, scissors, glue, masking tape, marker

One Easter Bingo Card (PDF download) per child, scissors, glue, construction paper, jelly beans (or something to mark the boards with), basket

Optional browse our free Easter coloring sheets

Worship: Use Easter Songs (extra print out) to lead the children to sing before the Bible lesson. Teaching Plan: Easter Sunday

Welcome Activity: Welcome activities are things to have out for the children to do as they are arriving for class. These activities will get them engaged as soon as they arrive and will help the transition from their parents.

Playdough and Blocks – help the children to build a “tomb” (maybe that looks like a bridge) with the blocks and then roll up a “stone” with playdough...the children can pretend to roll the stone away from the tomb

Worship: Easter Songs

Bible Lesson Introduction

Talk with the children about what they think of when you say “Easter”. Accept any answer – church-related or not. You will give them the true meaning of Easter throughout the class today.

Bible Lesson

“We will be doing the Bible story a little different today. We are going to be using Resurrection Eggs and you are all going to help me tell the story of Easter.”

Give each child a resurrection egg. Make sure that they keep it closed until it is their turn. If you have more than 12 children, either partner them up or get another package of resurrection eggs.

Read through the Resurrection Eggs Story Book with the children. As you get to each page, have the child holding the corresponding egg open it up and show the class what’s inside.

Bible Lesson Activities

Activity: The Angel Rolled Away the Stone

You can have the paper plates already cut for the children, depending on the age of the children.

Cut the paper plates in half

Cut a “doorway” out of one half of all of the plates

Have the children color the half of the paper plate with the “doorway” brown

Have the children color the other half of the paper plate black

As the children are coloring, walk around and make sure that each child’s name gets written on both pieces of their tomb

Staple the two pieces together making sure that the black can be seen through the “doorway”

Have the children glue the angel inside of the door

Have the children crumple up the brown construction paper

Tape the construction paper “stone” to the outside of the tomb

As the children are finishing their project, talk with them about what they are making and about the story they just learned about Easter

Activity: Bible Verse Memorization

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” Matthew 28:6

He: point to heaven

Is not here: shake head “No”

He: point to heaven

Has risen: raise hands and arms up to heaven

Just as He said: shake head “Yes”

Matthew 28: hold up ten fingers 2x and then 8 fingers **6:** hold up 6 fingers

Do this a few times with the children. Make it fun for them to do the motions and say the words. Involving them in active learning is essential for memorization.

Activity: Easter Bingo

Give each child an Easter Bingo Board. Have them cut out square out – they will be making their own cards.

Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them fold it in half 4 times – this should make 16 squares. Have them cut it so that their board is 3×3 instead of 4×4.

Have the children glue their bingo pieces anywhere on their board. This way each child’s board is different.

Cut up one bingo card for you to use as pieces to call from.

Put the Easter Bingo Cards in the basket.

The “He Has Risen!” spot is a free spot for all of the children. Choose 1 Easter Bingo Card, say what it is and show the picture

Have the children find it on their cards

As they are finding the item – talk about what the item is and what it has to do with Easter
Stone – there was a stone blocking the door of Jesus’ tomb

Angel – the angel rolled the stone away

Cross – Jesus died on the cross for us

3 days – Jesus rose again after 3 days

Crown of thorns – Jesus wore a crown of thorns on His head

Bread – Jesus had the Last Supper with His disciples

Nails – they nailed Jesus to the cross

Resurrection – He lives in heaven!


Continue playing until someone has three pictures in a row filled.

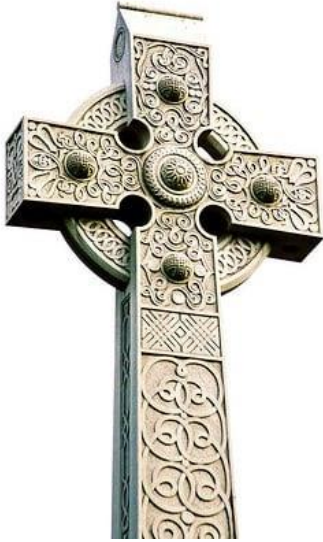
Evaluation:

Have the children recall the Easter story. Guide them to tell it in the correct order.

Hope in Holy Week (Mark 14:22-24)

April 26

 ministry-to-children.com/lesson-the-beauty-of-the-cross-hope-in-holy-week-mark-1422-24
Kristin Schmidt



As we approach Holy Week and prepare our hearts for Easter, it's easy to become caught up in the excitement of egg hunts, palm branch crosses, and chocolate bunnies. It can even grow tiresome to talk yet again about what may seem an "obvious" Christian story. But students can benefit from focusing on details of this time in Christ's life, and many may have questions come up that for us as teachers remind us how amazing were the sacrifices made by our Lord.

Notes: This lesson is a bit longer in length and quite detailed. Feel free to choose elements of focus or break

up into chunks, if possible. Also, most passages reference the book of Mark, as it tends to have the most details of Christ's final week. However, all gospels can be used to share the events of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Bible Focus: Holy Week, including the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

Student application: Jesus is the culmination and fulfillment of God's plan...the crucifixion is the crux (pun intended) of the Bible! Never grow immune to the wonder of resurrection.

Lesson Opener: Tools of torment...begin with a few pictures (shown via projection or passed around papers, as available tools allow)...show students several methods of execution and ask for what words, thoughts, and emotions come up when they see them. Show pictures of a noose, a guillotine, electric chair, and even ancient torture devices like the rack or prison chambers. Ask children how they would feel about wearing one of those as a charm on a necklace or bracelet. Then display a picture of the cross and perhaps a crown of thorns to go with it. What does this represent? We certainly feel different about the cross due to the new meaning that Christ's death and resurrection has given it. What else do we know about the death of Jesus? Why is it so important and critical to our Christian faith? How do we know the truth of the story?

Lesson and Verses: If possible, continue using pictures with this story as you go step by step through the elements of the Messiah's last night on earth. Explain the

historical background in this way, but emphasize the significance of *why* Christ died so painfully and how His resurrection gives us hope today.

Begin with a quick review of Holy Week events, beginning with Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry. (*Share picture of donkey and/or Palm branches*) Explain that Jesus came into Jerusalem this way in fulfillment of another Old Testament prophecy:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. -Zechariah 9:9

After this initial victorious and celebrated introduction into town, the Savior encountered some challenges in His final few days of life. (*Show picture of temple and/or whip*) Remind students of the clearing of the temple, and why Jesus did it. Mention that this action, too, hearkens back to a prophecy:

these I will bring to my holy mountain, and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." -Isaiah 56:7

Coming down to the last night of the Messiah's life, discuss what happened during the Last Supper. (*Feel free to show a picture of the classic "Last Supper" painting or a more historically accurate depiction upper room arrangements*). Walk through some of the actions and conversations Jesus had with His disciples. Why did he wash their feet? Discuss the prediction of Peter's denial and the dismissal of Judas. Bear particular importance on Communion.

2 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

23 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 "This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. -Mark 14:22-24

(*Show pictures of olive trees and location of Gethsemane*). Upon leaving the house, Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, wishing that somehow things could be fulfilled differently, but knowing that the Father's will would be fulfilled. It is following this prayer (and the disciples' subsequent snooze) that Jesus is arrested and the ultimate trials begin. Field from students what details they know already about the long night of crucifixion. Walk through the various encounters of His trials:

- Jesus is brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning; at this time Peter denies knowledge of Him (Mark 14: 53-72)

- Jesus is brought before Pilate for questioning. Pilate would rather not have anything to do with Jewish drama, so He tries to appease the situation but the crowd demands Christ's crucifixion (Mark 15:1-14).
- Jesus is flogged and handed to soldiers, who mock and beat Him (Mark 15:15-20).
- Jesus carries his cross to Golgotha, with the help of a man named Simon. It may be that he was too weak and tired to carry himself. (Mark 15:21-22).
- Jesus cries out to God and dies (Mark 15:33-37)
- Joseph of Arimathea embalms the body and Jesus is buried (Mark 15:42-46)

Obviously, this is a devastating turn of events. Good Friday commemorates the darkest hour in history. Jesus suffered and died a criminal's anguishing execution. But fortunately, we know that is not the end of the story. What happens next? Easter Morning comes, finishing God's final plan and fulfilling Christ's destiny and reason for coming. The tomb is empty. Hope is realized. Jesus defeated death. He is risen; Hallelujah!

(Show pictures of first century tomb and burial techniques. If desired, emphasize story points with a video clip, either from a film on Jesus or even another tale with sacrificial elements. Recommended: Aslan's resurrection in The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe).

Follow-up Questions:

- Why did Jesus have to die? (Basic, but critical question with regard to faith) *Jesus took on the guilt and sins of humanity. The wages of sin are death (Romans 6:23), and God gave His son to pay for those sins and allow us eternal life.*
- Why is it so important that He rose from the dead? *Christ arose in fulfillment of the prophets and what God did. His resurrection defied and defeated death and Satan and bridged the gap between human sin and God, providing a pathway to Heaven and to hope.*
- Why did Jesus wash the feet of the disciples? *Jesus was acting as servant, providing an example and emphasis that He came to lay down His life in every way and to serve.*
- We may criticize Peter and the others for denying and fleeing Jesus, but how do we sometimes do the same? *We yield to peer pressure sometimes and deny Him ourselves, or we give in to gossip and ignore genuine prayer and devotion to God.*
- Are we ever like Pilate, trying to just wash our hands of Christ and be done with

it? Sometimes it may seem easier or more "universal friendly" to abandon our faith or to allow for other beliefs and practices. But Christ is the way and the truth and the life. If we abandon Him, we abandon all hope truly.

- Why did Jesus cry out to God? Had God truly abandoned and forsaken His son?
This was the final desperate breath of Christ, echoing earlier prophecy and pleading as He had done in the garden. Ultimately God did not turn away from Jesus (just as He would not have given up in the garden), and was at that time still one in the same with Jesus.
- Who do you most identify with in this story?

Weekly Challenge: Explore the details...Take some time this week to truly examine the events of Christ's crucifixion, in order to appreciate its meaning and significance. Read the story in all four Gospels to understand what we know. Take time to prayerfully consider and grasp Christ's sacrifice and what it means to us.