

Easter

March 25, 2024-
March 31, 2024

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

THEME: All Will be Made Alive

SONG: CW21 440 -Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands v. 1-4

VISUAL: Exmples of fiction and nonfiction books the students are familiar with

OBJECT LESSON

Give a brief explanation that fiction books share made up stories and nonfiction books share things that are true or really happened. Hold up each book selection and ask students if the book is fiction (made up stories) or non-fiction (something that is true or really happened). End with holding up the Bible. Is the Bible true?

BIBLE TRUTH

Read 1 Corinthians 15:19-26. Paul writes, "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." With the word *indeed*, Paul is stressing that we must not think of Jesus' resurrection like a happy ending to a fairytale. The resurrection is not a legend or make-believe. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. Jesus' resurrection is part of our story too.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus' resurrection proves that "all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

Because Jesus has been raised, we also will rise again! Death is not the end for us. We will be raised when Jesus comes again on the Last Day. He will raise us up out of the grave and take us to be with him in heaven forever. That is what Easter really means for us. Jesus' resurrection assures us of our own. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for rising from the dead. Thank you for reassuring me that death is not the end. When we are confronted with the harsh reality of death, remind us of the reality of your resurrection. Help us to remain firm in our faith, with our eyes fixed firmly on you, until the Last Day comes when you will raise us and all believers in you to eternal life in heaven. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 1, 2024-
April 7, 2024

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-23

THEME: The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace

SONG: CW21 830 - We Walk by Faith

VISUAL: Briefcase with examples of evidence (fingerprint chart, boot print, time stamped photo etc.)

OBJECT LESSON

Ask students if they know what a lawyer's job is. The job of a lawyer is to prove either that someone committed a crime or that they are innocent. In order to prove that, the lawyer must provide evidence to the court. This evidence must be true accounts that support what the lawyer is saying to the judge. The jury then looks at all the evidence, they listen to what the lawyer has to say, and they make their decision based on what they have seen and heard.

BIBLE TRUTH

Read John 20:19-23. Jesus had risen from the dead early Sunday morning. That evening, he appeared to his disciples. The disciples were hiding behind locked doors because they were afraid. The Pharisees and the Romans had just arrested Jesus and put him to death. The disciples were afraid they would be next. Imagine what they must have felt when Jesus appeared right in the middle of the room! How do you think the disciples felt? (take some answers)

The disciples needed some proof before they could fully understand what was going on. What proof did Jesus give them? "After he said this, he showed them his hands and side." The proof was right there on Jesus' body. The nail marks from the cross were still there. The wound in his side from the soldier's spear was still there. Those were examples of undeniable proof that this was indeed Jesus, risen from the dead. Jesus said twice to his disciples, "Peace be with you." Once the disciples were assured that this was Jesus, the peace of God filled their hearts.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Can you think of any times in your life where you have had to show proof of something? Or any times in your life where you asked someone else for proof? Maybe a big tornado went through your grandma's town, and you needed to hear her voice before you believed she was okay. Maybe your teacher sends home a note or an assignment sheet every day that your parents have to sign, so your teacher has proof that your parents actually saw your homework. Once that proof is seen, it eases your mind and makes you feel more confident than you did before.

Jesus' resurrection provides that kind of peace of mind. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can have the peace of knowing that our sins are forgiven. Jesus' wounds are the full payment. There is nothing left to be done because he rose from the dead. We can also have the confidence that we will rise from the dead. When a loved one dies believing in Jesus, we know that they will be raised again one day as well. We no longer have to be afraid or worry about death. Jesus' resurrection calms our fears and assures us of God's promises to bring us to heaven.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for raising Jesus from the dead. Whenever doubts or fears arise in our minds, comfort us with the peace that comes through the knowledge of our own resurrection from the dead. Keep us ever faithful to you now and always. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 8, 2024-
April 14, 2024

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2

THEME: We Have a Meaningful Message to Share

SONG: CW21 451 - See What a Morning

VISUAL: Blindfold, two set of instructions on how to find the nearest bathroom

OBJECT LESSON

Pick two student volunteers. Give them each a set of instructions. Blindfold one student. Now have each student try to read you the instructions on how to find the bathroom from where you are. Obviously only the student without the blindfold will be able to do it.

BIBLE TRUTH

Why was it hard for [blindfolded student] to read the instructions? What made it easier for [other student] to read the instructions? We have a message to share that is far more important than how to get to the bathroom. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. Did you catch the message we have to share? "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Wow! How amazing is that! We get to share with people the good news about Jesus! But notice what kind of people it takes to share that message. It takes people who are walking in the light, not the darkness. When the Bible talks about darkness, what does that usually mean? (sin/unbelief) And when the Bible talks about light, what does that usually mean? (faith)

John told us that "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." There is no sin with God. God is holy and perfect. By faith in him through Jesus, we are with him in the light. But John also warns about continuing to walk in darkness. If we continue living in our sins, we have no part in God's light. Without God, we are lost in the darkness of our own sin. We cannot find our way out. But when we confess our sins and turn to God for forgiveness, we can see by the light of his Word. After all, God's Word is a "lamp to our feet and a light for our path" (Psalm 119:105).

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

The key to walking in God's light instead of the darkness of sin is repentance. God wants us to confess our sins and turn to him for forgiveness. But how do we truly repent of our sin?

True repentance has two steps:

1. Admit that what you did was wrong. Turn away from doing that same sin again.
2. Trust in God for forgiveness through Jesus.

That last step is the most important. Trust in God for forgiveness through Jesus is the mark of true faith.

God always promises to forgive us our sins. Jesus' death on the cross already took away those sins. But since we continue to sin every day, we should also repent of our sin every day, turning away from the darkness of sin and back to God's light. After all, we have the promises that John talks about: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

PRAYER

Dear Savior, thank you for taking away all my sin. Forgive me for the times when I've forgotten your love and turned away to the darkness of my sinful nature. Help me to walk in the light of your Word. Keep the light of faith burning brightly inside me until it leads me to the eternal brightness of heaven. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

4th Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2024-
April 21, 2024

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-18

THEME: The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding

SONG: CW21 804/ CW93 432 - I am Jesus' Little Lamb

VISUAL: Pictures of tour guides (park rangers or docents) and/or things a tour guide might carry

OBJECT LESSON

Ask the students if they've been on a guided tour? Maybe it was on a family vacation. Maybe you visited a museum or a national park or a baseball stadium or a historical site. When you take a tour of any place like that, it's important to have a guide. Why would a guide be important? (take some answers) If you've never been to that place before, you need someone to lead you around who knows the way. If you don't have a guide to lead you around, you might get lost because you wouldn't know the right way to go. And even if you do get separated from your tour, you know to always look for your guide because they will show you the right way out.

BIBLE TRUTH

This Sunday is a special Sunday. It's called Good Shepherd Sunday. During the season of Easter, we take some time to focus on the fact that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He even called himself that. Read John 10:11-18.

Jesus is indeed our Good Shepherd. We are just like sheep. Without their shepherd, sheep wouldn't know the right way to go or the right thing to do. Sheep like to wander wherever they want. They don't know what paths are safe and what paths are dangerous. If they are left alone, they could wander farther and farther away from the safe pastures. They need a shepherd to guide them along the correct paths.

In the same way, if we are left alone to ourselves, we just wander off too. Maybe not actually wandering with our feet, but we wander with our hearts and minds. Left by ourselves, we wander farther and farther away from God's Word. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, comes in and leads us back along the right paths. He leads us back to God and his Word.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

There are many paths that don't lead to God. It might be our own ideas about what is right and wrong. Others might say that you have to do good things and that will get you to God. Still others might even say that faith doesn't even matter. These different ideas can lead us farther away from God.

How did Jesus show us that he is the Good Shepherd? (He laid down his life for us; he brings us into his flock; he rescues us from those who would attack our faith). Jesus leads us with his Word to trust in him. We learn to listen to his voice. The more we listen to his Word, the more confident we are that he loves us and is guiding us.

PRAYER

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for leading us and guiding us on the paths you want us to take. Keep us ever close to you as we wander through this sinful world. Bring us safely through this life and into the green pastures of heaven, where we will dwell with you forever. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS