

JESUS IS ALIVE!

We Have Hope!

Parents,
More than ever, we have all been reminded that the things on this earth are temporary. Something can be here one day and gone the next. That is why we don't want to put our hope in earthly things. God warned us of this: "Do not gather for yourselves riches on earth. Moths and rats can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, gather for yourselves riches in heaven.....Put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do."

On this day when we celebrate that Jesus overcame death, we know that we have HOPE! God promised that He would never leave us or forsake us. He us with us until the end.

So let's keep our eyes focused on Jesus! We know that we will be saved because Christ lives!!

HAPPY EASTER!!

April 12, 2020

Reference: Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10

Lesson: Jesus is Alive!

What We're Learning :

About God: Jesus overcame death

About Us: Through Jesus, we can overcome death & have the hope of Heaven

"Now that God has brought us back, we are even more secure. We know that we will be saved because Christ lives."

Romans 5:10b (NIRV)

Gospel Treasure Hunt

Materials:

Pictures of: palm branch, donkey, sword, praying hands, nails, cross, bag of silver, empty tomb, angel

- Print the pictures and cut them into squares
- Hide the pictures throughout the room
- Let the kids find as many of the pictures as they can
- After all the pictures are found, have the kids lay all the pictures out on a table
- Look at each picture and discuss which part of the story of Jesus it tells

Remind the kids, that even though Easter is fun and we like to hunt for eggs and eat lots of candy - the real story of Easter was Jesus loving us enough to die for us - and then having the power to overcome death and come back to life!



Pantano Christian Church

Craft - Jesus is Alive Book

Supplies:

- Jesus is Alive Booklet
- Crayons/Markers
- Scissors

How to make:

- Print the Jesus is Alive Booklet
- Color and cut out the "Jesus is Alive" book as one piece (do not cut along dotted lines)
- Now, cut the BOLD line in the middle of the sheet (between #2 and #4)
- Fold the paper on the dotted lines, creating a book according to the numbers on the scenes
- Use the book to re-tell the story of Jesus dying on the cross and raising from the dead!

Review Questions

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. True or false - Jesus died on the cross. Answer: True
2. Who asked if he could have the body of Jesus so he could bury Him? Answer: Joseph of Arimathea
3. Why did they put soldiers at the entrance to Jesus' tomb? Answer: They were afraid his followers would try to steal the body
4. Who moved the stone from the entrance of the tomb? Answer: An angel
5. Who were the first ones to discover that Jesus wasn't in the tomb? Answer: Mary and 2 other women
6. What did the women see when they got to the tomb? Answer: The stone was rolled away and an angel was sitting on the stone
7. What did the angel tell the women to do? Answer: Go and tell the disciples what they had seen
8. Did the disciples believe the women? Answer: No
9. Which disciples ran to the tomb to see for themselves? Answer: Peter and John
10. What did Peter see when he went in the tomb? Answer: The body of Jesus was gone, but his grave clothes were still there
11. According to our verse, how do we know that we can be saved? Answer: Because Christ lives!

Review questions from a previous story:

- What did people spread on the ground in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem? (Coats and Palm branches)
- Which disciple betrayed Jesus? (Judas)
- How much was Judas paid to betray Jesus? (30 pieces of silver)
- Why did Jesus and His friends go to the Garden of Gethsemene? (To pray)
- What did Jesus' friends do while He was praying? (They fell asleep)
- What did the disciples do when Jesus was arrested? (They ran away)
- What kind of crown did the soldiers give to Jesus? (A crown of thorns)
- Why did Jesus die on the cross for us? (To take the punishment for our sins- He was the perfect sacrifice)

Lesson - Jesus is Alive!

What a sad day it had been for the friends of Jesus! They had stood watching sadly, as Jesus hung on the cross dying. They didn't fully understand why it had to happen.

They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they remembered how He had healed the sick and made blind people see. They remembered how He had fed thousands of people with just a few loaves of bread and fish. They even remembered how He had caused dead people to come back to life. Why did He have to die like this?

Just before the sun was going down, Joseph of Arimathea noticed that Jesus was no longer breathing. He quickly went to ask Pilate if he could have the body of Jesus so he could bury Him. When Pilate agreed, Joseph and Nicodemus carefully wrapped Jesus' body in clean cloths. Then they took Him to the tomb that Joseph had built for himself, so they could bury Him there.

The next day, the Pharisees started thinking about Jesus. They were the people that had wanted to kill Jesus. They remembered how He had taught them, saying that He would rise again after three days. They thought that Jesus' disciples might try to steal the body from the tomb just so they could say that Jesus rose again. They went to Pilate, suggesting that the tomb be closed up with a huge stone and that guards be placed all around the tomb. There was no way for anyone to get in - - or out.

But the next day, the most amazing thing happened! There was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE! An angel from the Lord came down from heaven, moved the gigantic stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it. The guards began to shake with fear! They fell down to the ground as if they were dead!

Mary and two other women had decided to get up very early in the morning and go to visit the tomb where Jesus was placed. While walking down the road, they were discussing how they were going to get inside the tomb. They had brought along some spices and perfume that they wanted to place on Jesus' body. They knew the huge stone had been placed in the doorway and they had no idea how they were going to move it.

What a SURPRISE they found when they reached the tomb! The stone had already been moved! And . . . there was an ANGEL sitting on the stone! The women were quite afraid, but the angel spoke gently to them:

"Don't be afraid. I know that you have come to see Jesus. He is not here; for he is risen just as he said. Come inside and see the place where he lay."

The women went inside the tomb and found it empty, just as the angel had told them. The angel told the women to go quickly and tell the disciples what they had seen.

The women did just as the angel had told them. They were so happy! They couldn't wait to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive!

But . . . when the women found Peter and their other friends and tried to tell them the good news, . . . no one believed them! But the women persisted, so Peter decided that he needed to find out for himself. He and John ran all the way to the tomb. Peter went inside first. He saw the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus- they were even folded very neatly - but the body of Jesus wasn't there. What had happened?

Could it really be true? Did Jesus really raise from the dead? Was Jesus really alive?

We know today that Jesus is alive, because He promised that He would be raised from the dead after 3 days. We know that God always keeps His promises, and that we can trust Him. Our verse says, "We know that we will be saved because Christ lives." Because Jesus sacrificed himself in our place, and overcame death, we know that we will overcome death too - and we will live with Him forever in Heaven!

Discussion & Questions (For older kids)

Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?

Jesus prophesied that He would raise from the dead. Remember when he said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days?" If Jesus predicted his death, but then failed to come back to life, he would have either been wrong or a liar. Him being able to RAISE HIMSELF from the dead shows that He was/is God.

If Jesus was NOT God, then He had no power to die on the cross for our sins, which is the way we have forgiveness.

So, in short - it was important that Jesus rose from the dead, because that was the ultimate way that He proved He was God, and that He was the perfect sacrifice to take the punishment for our sins.

- What does it mean to you that Jesus left His home in Heaven to come to this earth and die for you?
- What are some words you can use to describe Jesus?
- What sort of changes does Jesus help make in our lives if we're followers of His?
- Why do we need to make a decision to have a relationship with Jesus?
- Do you think following Jesus is easy? Why or why not?
- Do you think it is worth it to follow Jesus?
- Is it possible to live life your own way and also follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Communion

Jesus paid the ultimate price when He made the decision to stay on that cross and take the punishment for our sins.

Communion is a time we set apart each Sunday to remind us of how much God loves us. He showed us how much He loves us by sending His son to die in our place. The blood of Jesus will cover the sins of EVERY single person, if they will make the decision to follow Him and put Him first place in their life. This is a time for those that have made a decision to follow Jesus to remember their decision and to remember the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus asks us to set aside a time to remember him and the decision we made to follow him. We do this every week because God knows that it's important that we remember His son, since we sometimes are forgetful people. Each of the emblems we take in communion has significance. The bread represents Jesus' body, which was broken for us on the cross. The bread is unleavened, which means it doesn't have yeast. This represents that fact that Jesus was perfect, without any sin. The juice represents Jesus' blood, which the Bible says covers our sins so that God doesn't see our sins anymore. Communion is a very serious time when we reflect on how much God loves us and how much we love Him. If you haven't made the decision to follow Jesus, you can still spend this time thinking about the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and thinking about what it would look like for you to make the decision to follow Jesus for yourself.

Pray something like this: "Dear God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to die in our place. Thank you that we have forgiveness of our sins because of Jesus' sacrifice. Help us to love others the way that you love us. In Jesus' name, Amen."