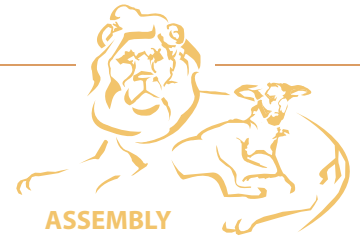


THE RESURRECTION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:1-10



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

Supplies

- a work light with a reflector, don't use more than a 500 watt bulb so the children's eyes will not be harmed
- dark cloth to cover windows to help darken the room

Tell the story of the resurrection with the lights off in your classroom. Cover the windows if possible to block out the light. Tell the children that they are playing the role of the guards. When it comes to the light bursting forth in the story, turn the work light on, facing the children. The children should fall down like dead men just as the guards did in the story. After you finish telling the story, ask the children the following questions:

- Why is this story amazing? This story is amazing because Jesus who was killed has risen again. Not only is this amazing because Jesus was physically dead, this is even more amazing because the wrath of God was poured out upon Him for our sins. Jesus' resurrection declares the sufficiency of His sacrifice.
- What words would you use to describe what happened?
Help the children redefine words like awesome, amazing, spectacular which are sometimes used to describe ordinary daily events.

THE RESURRECTION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:1-10

REENACT THE TOMB SCENE

Supplies

- sheets to create a tomb area
- strips of white fabric for grave clothes

In the classroom hang the sheets from the ceiling in a tent-like fashion with a small table inside, cover the table with another sheet. Lay the strips of fabric across the table.

Have a couple of the children play the two Marys. Have the other children watch as the angel (played by a teacher) speaks the angel's words from Matthew 28:3.

The two girls can run back over to the rest of the class and tell them of what they saw.

BRINGING BACK THE DEAD

Supplies

- a dead plant

One week before class purchase a small plant from a nursery. Do not water it. Let it dry out and die. Or, you can place it in your oven on very low heat for a few hours if it has a ceramic pot.

Bring the dead plant into class and very casually ask a volunteer for some help. Once you get a volunteer, bring the plant out and ask the volunteer to speak to the plant and bring it back from the dead. Be insistent, as though raising the plant from the dead is an easy thing. Draw out from the children how exceptional God's power is to raise Jesus. He alone has the power of life and death.



THE RESURRECTION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:1-10

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus is no longer in the tomb! This is the most critical part of the Gospel. Paul said it like this:

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. . . If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (I Corinthians 15:12-19)

Paul goes on to say that Christ is the first fruits (the first to be raised) and that we will also be raised! If Jesus had died but not risen again we would all be lost! The resurrection is not a tagalong to the cross. The resurrection is an integral part of the Gospel without which the Gospel would have no power!

