

# THE RESURRECTION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:1-10



## The STORY

Read about the resurrection of Christ in Matthew 28:1-10.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in this story? (Jesus was raised by God from the dead.)
- Did anyone see Jesus being raised? (The soldiers could have seen it but they were blinded by the light. The angels and God the Father saw it and later Jesus appeared to the ladies visiting his tomb.)
- Why is the resurrection important to us? (The resurrection proves Jesus was who He said He was, God's Son, and it demonstrates God's power over sin and death. If Jesus rose from the dead, then all those who trust in Jesus can be risen and live with Him forever in heaven.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus bursting forth out of the tomb. Engage the children by asking:**

- What day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? How do we celebrate that day? (Jesus rose on Sunday. We follow the example of the early church, gathering together for church on that day. Sunday has since been called the Lord's Day.)
- What holiday celebrates Jesus rising from the dead? (Easter)
- What is the real meaning of Easter? Why should we celebrate Jesus and not Easter bunnies? (Easter bunnies do not point to the resurrection of Christ. It is Jesus rising from the dead that makes this day special. The resurrection of Christ tells us that Jesus was victorious. He died for our sins and rose that we could also one day rise and be with Him in heaven.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What is your favorite part of the resurrection? (The children will normally answer giving a part of the resurrection story.)
- What is your favorite part of Easter? (Though they might say candy or Easter bunnies, help them to see that both this and the previous question are one and the same. We should keep our focus on Christ, His death and resurrection when we think of Easter.)
- What do we learn about God from the resurrection? (God is all-powerful, even over death. We learn that Jesus was able to take upon Himself the sins of the world, be punished for them by the Father, and live again because He lived a sinless life and did not deserve to die.)

### 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. (1 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!

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*