



Easter Lesson

“Let your gentleness be evident to all.” Philippians 4:5

Lesson Time

Right now we are learning about the fruit of the Spirit. Does anyone remember what we have been talking about the past few weeks? (Allow time for answers.) Does anyone remember when we learned about faithfulness? What is faith? “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1) We learned that God showed His faithfulness to us over and over in the Bible and we can trust Him. We can be sure of Him even though we cannot see Him; He always keeps His promises!

What is today? (Easter!) What is special about Easter? (Jesus rose from the grave.) That is right! It is a special day because we celebrate that Jesus rose from death to life to give us life and save us from sin and death. He did all of this because He loves us. He didn’t have to do it but He chose to because He loves us. God promised He would send a Messiah to rescue His people and He did. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth so He could make us right with Him.

The Bible tells us, “God has shown us how to become right with him. We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. That happens to all who believe. Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. The free gift of God’s grace makes all of us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. God gave Jesus as a sacrifice to pay for sins. So he forgives the sins of those who have faith in his blood.” (Romans 3: 21-25) “So who can brag? No one! Are people saved by obeying the law? Not at all! They are saved because of their faith. We firmly believe that people are made right with God because of their faith.” (Romans 3:27-28) We are only made right with God when we trust and believe in Jesus. Can we save ourselves from sin by just following rules and not breaking any laws or being gentle all the time? No, we can’t because we all sin and break the rules and that breaks our relationship with God. He is perfectly holy and we are not. We sin and we need a Savior. That is why Jesus came to earth. He came to rescue us and save us from sin and death.

Jesus died for us but He did not stay dead. He rose to show that He is alive and has the power over sin and death. Jesus did that because He loves us. He is faithful to keep His promises to us. When we put our faith and trust in Him, the one who saves, He will forgive all of our sin. Then He gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us and we live by the Spirit’s power.

The Spirit produces fruit in our lives, but we must first have faith and believe in Jesus. When we belong to Christ Jesus we have nailed our own desires to His cross. The Bible says, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful nature to his cross. They don’t want what their sinful nature loves and longs for.” When we belong to Jesus and follow Him, we allow the Spirit to guide and teach us the way to live a Holy life! The Spirit will produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Prayer Time

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



The Tomb Could Not Hold Him!

Supplies:

Blocks

Have the children help build a “tomb” with cardboard blocks while one child lies inside and pretends to be dead. Count “1 day, 2 days, 3 days.” Then have the child burst up through the blocks alive. Remind the children that Jesus died on the cross and was placed in a tomb but on the third day He was not there. God raised Jesus from the dead just like He promised!



New Life Hunt

Supplies:

Plastic Easter eggs (1 per child)

“Jesus is Alive” Stickers

Hide Easter eggs around the room then tell the children to go on a hunt for one egg each. When they find one egg tell them to return to their seat and hold onto their egg. After everyone has found one egg have them all sit down. Tell them to open their eggs (if they have not already done so) and ask them to tell you what is inside. When they all inform you that there is nothing inside them, tell them that they are right. The eggs are empty. Ask, “**What else was empty that we learned about in the Bible lesson today?**” (The

tomb.) Tell them that it was upsetting at first when people saw that the grave was empty. But it was not a sad thing that the tomb was empty it was a good thing. Ask them why the tomb was empty; and talk with them about how Jesus had the power over death. He was alive and He still is. Give them each a sticker as a reminder that Jesus is alive and He showed His power over death. They can put the sticker on their eggs and take them home, if they want.



Easter Cross

Supplies:

Cross Printout (1 per child)

Page with pictures (1 per child)

Glue sticks

Scissors

Give each child a cross and a page of pictures. Explain to them that each picture represents something and that as you read through the descriptions and scripture passages below, they will cut out the correct picture and glue it to the cross. These things will help them remember the true meaning and story of Easter.

1. Donkey and palm tree: This represents Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and how we now celebrate this as Palm Sunday (Matt. 21:2-9). Glue on the left "arm" of the cross, leaving space in the center.

2. Goblet and bread: This represents Jesus celebrating the Passover with the disciples and we celebrate with the Lord's supper (Matt:26-28). Glue to the top of the cross.

3. Praying hands: This reminds us that Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray before being arrested (Matt. 26:36-44). Glue on the right "arm," leaving space in the center.

4. Three crosses: Remember Jesus' death on the cross to take the punishment for us (Mark 15:37-39). Glue to the lower middle of the cross.

5. Empty tomb: This reminds us that God was faithful in conquering death as Jesus rose from the dead. The tomb was empty! (Matt. 28:1-6). Glue to the bottom of the cross.

6. "God showed His faithfulness:" These passages of scripture show us that God shows His faithfulness in the ultimate way by keeping His promise to rescue us by sending Jesus. Glue "God shows His Faithfulness" to the center of the cross. Encourage the children to put the cross somewhere in their room or home to remind them of God's faithfulness.

(*Note: See craft example for picture placement)



Resurrection Eggs

Supplies:

Resurrection Eggs

Go through the eggs to review the Easter story. There is information on the inside lid of the box. Please be careful to return the items to the correct eggs so that they can be used again and again.



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