

This Article was written by

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SUNDAY SCHOOL DIVISION—EASTER SUNDAY 2005

THE RESURRECTION ROAD

Scripture Text

Luke 23:50-24:7

50 And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:

51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath

day according to the commandment.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Memory Verse

“And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher” (Luke 24:2).

Lesson Aim

To know what Jesus’ resurrection means to me.

POWer line

Jesus Is Alive!

Schedule

I. POWer of Worship (25-30 minutes)

A. POWer Welcome (8-10 minutes)

1. Craft: Pencil Popper Toppers (Praise Words)
2. Energy Outlet: Action Song

B. Praise Generators (5-6 minutes)

1. Truth Conductor: Object Lesson—Resurrection
2. Praise Chorus: “Alive, Alive, Alive Forevermore”

C. Prayer Time (5-6 minutes)

1. Energy Outlet: Does God Hear Me?

D. Offering (5-6 minutes)

1. Truth Conductor
2. SOC

II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Memory Work (4-6 minutes)

B. Illustrated Sermon (12-15 minutes)

Energy Outlet: Skipping

Chorus: “Rejoice in the Lord Always!”

C. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Supply List

- Craft: circles, sunbursts, crosses or egg shapes in assorted colors, die-cut or students can hand cut from craft foam (approx. 1” x1” in size), permanent markers, pipe cleaners in coordinating colors, new yellow pencils
- Object lesson: a pot of live bulb flowers (crocus, tulip, daffodil, hyacinth), a dry bulb
- Offering: two eggs at room temperature—one boiled, one uncooked, package of malted milk bird eggs (pretty ones) displayed in a nest or basket
- POWer line: the words “Jesus Is Alive!” written on big paper or cardboard stones, one word per stone
- Memory Work: preprinted papers (8 ½ x 5 ½)
- Lesson Props: props from last week’s lesson, cross, tomb. Have your lesson props in a box for easy access during the story time.

Before the Session

- Use brown craft paper to create a road on the wall or floor (Same as last week). Add signs and arrows: “Calvary Straight Ahead,” “The Way of Suffering,” “Resurrection Road.”

- Build tomb at the end of the road. (A piano box makes a great tomb. Check with your local music store for a box.) Tomb can also be constructed of papier-mâché, cardboard, or sheets draped over a few chairs.
- Construct a cross using 2 x 4s. Ask the helper who portrayed Jesus last week to act out the part again this week.
- Print words to the songs you will be singing on large pieces of posterboard or paper.
- Prepare the memory work activity.
- Read the biblical account of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for background.

POWer of Worship (25-30 minutes)

Welcome (8-10 minutes)

As children arrive they choose a new pencil, a craft foam shape, and a coordinating pipe cleaner. With a permanent marker they print a praise word or phrase on the front of the foam shape and their initials on the back. Show them how to poke an inch of the pipe cleaner through the bottom of the foam, bend it down, and twist it back around the remaining length of pipe cleaner. Coil the pipe cleaner tightly around the pencil. Then gently pull up on the top so that the top third of the coil comes off the pencil and springs freely.

Our pencils are jumping for joy, so let's be like them! (*Pencils should not be held for this activity.*) **Let's sing,**

“Jumping up and down, jumping up and down,

Jumping up and down, shout Hosanna, Hosanna!

Jumping up and down, jumping up and down,

Jumping up and down, shout Hosanna, Hosanna!

(Skipping all around; jump without a sound; walking all around; hopping up and down.)

POWer Line

Give three children the stones on which you have written the words for the POWer line. Ask students to hold up the stones as the class says three times, **“Jesus Is Alive!”** Then each child must pass his stone to someone else (who didn't have one the first time) and the class will say the POWer line three more times.

Praise Generators (5-6 minutes)

What does resurrection mean? Resurrection means to rise again. To resurrect means to renew, repair, restore, or revive. Here is an example. Show the pot of flowers. My beautiful pot of flowers didn't look so beautiful a few months ago. Each one of these flowers looked as dead and dry as this bulb. Show the dry bulb.

To get my bulb to bloom, it had to be planted in the dirt, watered, and receive lots of warm sunshine. Then the hidden blossoms and colors bloomed. We're describing the resurrection of this bulb, and later we'll be talking about Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on . . . Easter!

Let's sing, "Alive, Alive, Alive Forevermore." As you sing, raise your hands high on the word "*alive*."

Prayer Time (5-6 minutes)

We're going on a walk, but there's one catch—you have to walk on your knees. We'll do one lap around the room. Let's go! Walk around the room as far as your knees will carry you.

Not much fun? We can't walk on our knees very far before they start hurting. Some people think that they have to suffer or hurt themselves to get God's attention. They follow the same road in Jerusalem that Jesus walked, carrying His cross on Good Friday. They call that street the Via Dolorosa, or the way of suffering. But the difference is, they follow the path on their knees hoping that God will listen more closely to their prayers. They are good people, but they are wrong. God doesn't want us to hurt ourselves to get His attention. We know how to get God's attention. Tell me how? (Give your class time to respond.) Prayer. Praise. Worship.

Let's take our prayer requests now, thanking God that He instantly hears us, and we don't have to hurt ourselves or wait around until we're older, or until He's not busy, or until we're good. We can pray wherever and whenever we want to! God is listening.

Offering (5-6 minutes)

I have two eggs in my hands. What is the same about these eggs? They're both eggs, they are both warm and round, etc.

What is different about these eggs? (One is good to eat; the other could have a baby chick inside. One goes in the refrigerator; one goes under a warm

mother. One gets used up fast; the other could produce more eggs and chickens.)

Your money is like these eggs. When you buy a toy or candy, you use up your money fast and it's all gone. When you give your money to Save Our Children, it's like an egg that has a baby chick. That money can grow into something bigger that could produce a lot more baby chicks, or children in Sunday school.

As you come and give your offering, pick up a candy egg to enjoy right now. Set the nest of malted eggs near the offering basket.

POWER line

Review the POWER Line again by asking the students to hold up the stones. **Jesus Is Alive!**

POWER of the Word (25-30 minutes)

Memory Work

Pass out the papers with the memory verse, Luke 19:38, preprinted on them. (Explain that sepulcher means tomb or cave where people are buried.) Students roll the paper from both sides to make a scroll, then sit down on the floor with a partner to memorize the verse of Scripture. When they both can say the verse, show them how to use coffee or tea to age their scrolls.

Jewish children play a game in which they must hunt for scrolls in their house, like Americans do Easter eggs. Divide your class into boys and girls for a variation of this game.

One scroll with the memory verse is hidden by the teacher. The girls have one minute to find it. The girl who finds it must hide it for the boys. Then the boys have one minute to find it. If the scroll isn't found in a minute, then the other side gets their turn. Every time the scroll is found, the team must say the memory verse.

Illustrated Sermon (12-15 minutes)

Have the students sit on the floor in two lines, facing each other, creating a road down the middle. (Same as last week. Select different students to play the parts this week. Ask the helper who played Jesus last week to portray Him again this week and to wait outside or on the other side of the room until a pre-arranged signal is given. He will carry the cross down the road to a spot near the tomb.)

You will have students stand along the roadside as they are called on to act out the parts of observers and witnesses. More than one child can represent an occupation or role.

Jerusalem was a busy city and busier than usual because the Passover festival had just been celebrated. Lots of people were on the streets. Roman soldiers guarded the gates and were watchful for any sign of disturbance. (Have two boys stand at attention at the end of each line of children.)

Travelers from far away were in the city for the festival. (Give a couple of students suitcases to carry down the road.)

Merchants were selling food (a student passes out the plastic fruit) **and clothing** (sandal shopkeeper waves a pair of shoes) **and animals for sacrifices** (student carries stuffed animals) **along the road to get the best stream of traffic.**

Entertainers were trying to earn some money (juggler with a hat to catch coins stands) **along the road, because that's where the crowds were.**

There were also pickpockets along the road and con artists trying to rent out rooms they didn't own to travelers (needs no representation).

As with all busy streets and places, there were good and bad people rushing all around.

Everyone was talking about the Miracle Man, Jesus, who was coming through today.

But, some people were saying that He is not the Messiah after all. He's a fake. He's been preaching things that the religious leaders don't like and making them look bad. He does miracles that make the people love Him and He even claims He is God. That's blasphemy!

He's going to be crucified today. Good riddance!

Everyone was anxious to see the "fake" Messiah. Maybe He will perform a miracle to escape. The people who loved Jesus kept quiet because they were afraid.

First they heard yelling and shouting from a long way off. Then as they all craned their necks to look, (look to one end of their road) He came into sight, bent and dragging a huge cross. (Jesus comes down the road carrying the cross.) His head was bleeding from thorns that were smashed down into His scalp, and His back was bloody from being beaten and scourged.

The crowd was quiet for a moment. Each one felt guilty. This man was known as a gentle man who did a lot of good things for people.

Then someone in the crowd yelled, "He's not the Messiah. He's got to die!"

Everyone started yelling. They pushed their guilt down beneath their anger. This was the road to the cross.

Jesus was crucified between two thieves. (Jesus stops before he gets to the tomb and stands with the cross on his back.) **A good man named Joseph, a secret disciple of Jesus', buried Jesus in his own tomb.** Select someone to remove Jesus from the cross and put him in the tomb. **Some people were concerned about Jesus' burial because Jesus had said He would rise again in three days.** **So the Romans sealed the tomb and put guards in front of the door.** (Stand two guards in front of the tomb.)

Everyone was watching, except the disciples. They were hiding, afraid of the Romans and afraid of being crucified, too.

On the third day, the two Roman guards fell to the ground, and the wax seals snapped on the stone in front of Jesus' tomb. A creaking, groaning, rolling sound did not wake up the guards. (Jesus comes out of the tomb—robed in white. He can leave the room.)

Mary Magdalene and some other women walked down the road, bringing spices to the tomb. The women were very upset. Their eyes would not stop flowing with tears as they talked about Jesus. They were worried about how they would move the stone in front of the tomb so they could get inside to put the spices on Jesus' body. To their amazement, when they got to the tomb, the guards were gone, and the stone was rolled away. Someone had stolen Jesus' body and left the winding garment. This was a horrible injustice! Will they cart His body about and make fun of it in the streets? The women imagined horrible things.

As the women stood around the tomb wondering what to do, two men in shining clothes (angels) spoke to them, "You seek Jesus, but He is not here. He has risen!"

Mary and the other women ran back down the road to find Peter and John. "He's alive; have you heard? He's alive!" Then the disciples remembered Jesus' words and believed. "He's alive! He's alive!"

Jesus appeared to the disciples several times after He was resurrected and the disciples told everyone else, “He’s alive! Have you heard? He’s alive.”

And that’s our job too. We need to tell people that Jesus is alive!

Let’s pretend that we are Mary and the other disciples and run and skip around this room while singing,

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice, and again, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice, and again, I say, rejoice!

We can rejoice because Jesus Is Alive!

Provide colored paper streamers and let children wave the streamers as they skip around the room.

Invitation and Prayer (5 minutes - ?)

Jesus’ enemies thought He was walking a road to death, but actually it was the road to resurrection. Jesus conquered death when He rose again. He has power over death and sin. He has the power to change your life. Pray with students. Easter Sunday is a great day to receive the Holy Ghost!