



TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADES 1-2
YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School



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*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)



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Jesus' Burial and Resurrection

Mt 27:57-61; 28:1,5-8; **Mk** 15:42-16:8; **Lk** 23:50-24:10; **Jn** 19:31-42

Looking Back at Lesson 11

Jesus Is Crucified

Matthew 27:31-44; Mark 15:20-32; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:16-22

Aim: Why did Jesus let himself suffer on a cross?

Truth: Jesus let himself suffer on a cross to take away the sins of all people.

Application: Jesus earned our salvation by suffering and dying for us.

Response: We value the gift of salvation as our most precious possession.

Lesson Summary: Immediately after Pilate handed down the death sentence to Jesus, Jesus was led out of the city to be crucified along with two thieves. Once at Calvary, Jesus was nailed to a cross and placed between the two criminals. Those around him mocked the Lord, but he did not become angry. Rather, he willingly suffered the torment that should have been ours.

Memory Treasures: *John 3:16; *The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed



How did Jesus show that he is God's Son?



Jesus showed that he is God's Son by rising from the dead.

Application: Jesus has power over death.

Response: We worship Jesus as God's Son and our risen Savior.

Lesson Summary: Late on Friday, the Jewish leaders requested that the legs of those crucified be broken to quicken their deaths. When the soldiers saw that Jesus was already dead, one of them pierced his side instead. Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus in a new grave. Women watched the burial, planning to return after the Sabbath with more spices. But when they returned early Sunday morning, they found an open grave and an angel who announced that Jesus had risen!



*** The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed**
Hymn 152:1



Sabbath—the weekly day of rest and worship observed by the Jews on the seventh day of the week, Saturday

Pilate—Roman governor in charge of Jerusalem who ordered that Jesus be crucified



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 944-960 and 968-981; The People's Bible: Albrecht, *Matthew*, pages 430-432; Wicke, *Mark*, pages 229-234; Prange, *Luke*, pages 253-258; Baumler, *John*, pages 253-255.



Dear Jesus, it's easy to get caught up in the drama of Holy Week and Easter and not focus on the meaning of your bitter suffering, cruel death, and glorious resurrection for sinners. As I study your Word, help me cherish what you went through for me. Amen.



WORSHIP

Show each of the following items one at a time: **rock, live plant, desk, picture of George Washington, a student.**

Sing: Explain that some things were never alive. Other things live and then die. Have the children classify each item as it is now—living or not living. [Rock (not living), plant (living), desk (not living), George Washington (not living), student (living).] Remind the children that Jesus was not living after his crucifixion but that he did come back to life and now lives in heaven. Sing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (hymn 152:1). If the stanza is new, sing one phrase at a time and have the children echo the phrase.

Pray: Jesus, this Bible lesson tells how you died to save us from the punishment we deserve for our sins. But we also know that you came back to life and will raise us to life in heaven. We praise you for doing everything necessary to save us! Amen.



Ask the following questions to review our Savior’s death:

- Whom did God send to earth to save us from our sins? [God sent his only Son to be our Savior.]
- Why did Jesus need to live a perfect, sinless life? [We are unable to keep God’s commandments perfectly, as he demands, so Jesus did this in our place.]
- Why did Jesus willingly suffer and die? [Jesus loves us and wants us to go to heaven. He paid for our sins by suffering the punishment we deserve for them.]
- Why will we and all other believers in Jesus go to heaven? [We will go to heaven because Jesus saved us, not because we deserve heaven.]



When Jesus died, many of his followers were very sad. They had forgotten an important promise that he had made that would show he is God’s Son. **Listen to find out how Jesus showed that he is God’s Son.**

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Ask the children why we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

[Possible responses:

Christmas is Jesus’ birthday, and Easter is when Jesus rose from the dead.] Sing the refrain to Psalm 47 (hymnal, page 85) to praise the Lord for coming to save us.

Pray: Dear Jesus, help us never love and think about presents, Christmas trees, Easter bunnies, or coloring eggs more than we love and think about you. Remind us that Christmas and Easter are all about what you did to save us. Amen.



Remind the children that when Jesus died, there were

many people watching. Ask the children to describe some of the different emotions, or feelings, of the people on Calvary. [His enemies were happy; those who loved him were confused, frightened, and sad.]



The people who loved Jesus were sad because their Lord had just died. They

had forgotten about a very important promise Jesus had made that would show who he is. **Listen carefully to our lesson to find out how Jesus showed that he is God’s Son.**

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Fill six plastic Easter eggs with small slips of paper containing key phrases from

this lesson. Use a marker to number the eggs.

"1: Jesus died."

"2: A soldier pierced Jesus' side."

"3: Jesus was buried."

"4: On Sunday the women came to put more spices on Jesus' body."

"5: Jesus was gone!"

"6: An angel said Jesus was alive!"

As you tell the story, open the eggs in order to reveal the key phrases.



Before class make a model of a tomb to use as you tell the story (see illustration on

page 111). Remove the lid from a shoe box, and tip the box on a longer side. Cover the front (open side) of the tomb with brown construction paper, attaching the paper only at the top. Leave about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of excess paper on the bottom, folded up toward the front (to be a track on which to roll a stone). Cut an opening in the front of the tomb. Cut a round stone out of gray construction



Draw a large circle on the board. As the children recognize different emotions during the story, draw or have a child draw a face on the circle to illustrate the emotion mentioned in the story.

Examples:

- Jesus died on a cross. (sad face)
- The women wondered who would roll the stone away from the grave. (questioning or worried face)
- The women were afraid when they saw the angel. (scared face)
- Jesus had risen just as he had said he would. (happy face)

Jesus died on a cross on **Friday afternoon**. Only a **few hours** were left until sunset, when the **Sabbath Day would begin**. The **Jewish leaders did not want** the **bodies** of Jesus and the two thieves left **hanging on the crosses** during the Sabbath. So they **went to Pilate** and said, "**Tell your soldiers** to go out to Calvary and **break the legs** of Jesus and those thieves. Then they'll **die more quickly** and their bodies can be taken down and **buried**."

Pilate sent his soldiers to do what the Jews had asked. The soldiers **used their heavy clubs** to **break the legs** of the **thieves**. But when they **came to Jesus**, they saw that he was **already dead**. So instead of breaking his legs, **one of the soldiers stabbed** his spear into **Jesus' side**. When he saw **blood and water** flow out of the wound, the soldier was **sure** that Jesus was **dead**.

Later that afternoon, a man named **Joseph went to Pilate**. Joseph was a **follower** of Jesus. He asked Pilate, "**May I have the body** of Jesus? I'll **take it down** from the cross and **bury it**."

After Pilate told Joseph that he **could bury** Jesus' body, **Joseph** and another believer named **Nicodemus** went out to Calvary. The two men **took Jesus' body down** from the cross.

Joseph owned a large garden near Calvary. In this garden was a **new grave** that Joseph had **made for himself**. This grave was like a **cave, cut out of a hillside**. Joseph and Nicodemus **took Jesus' dead body to this grave**. There they **put sweet-smelling spices in strips of cloth** and **wrapped** the strips around Jesus' body. Then they gently laid his **body in the grave**. When they were finished, they **rolled a large stone in front** of the doorway to the grave and **sadly walked away**.

Some women who were friends of Jesus had **watched the two men** bury him. They **wanted to help** get Jesus' body ready for burial,

but there was **not enough time** to get more spices. The sun was setting, and the **Sabbath Day would soon begin. No work** could be done on the Sabbath Day. So they **went home**, saying, “On **Sunday**, after the Sabbath Day is over, **we’ll come back** and put **more spices** in Jesus’ grave.”

Very **early on Sunday morning**, the **women started out** for Jesus’ grave. **One** of them was **Mary Magdalene**. The women **carried spices** to put on Jesus’ body. On the way, they **thought about** the heavy **stone** that blocked the door of the grave. They asked one another, “**Who will roll away** the stone for us?”

But when they **came to the grave**, the women **could hardly believe** what they saw. “**Look!**” they said. “The stone is already **rolled away!**”

When **Mary Magdalene saw** that the stone had been moved, she **didn’t go any farther**. She **ran** to tell **the disciples** what she had seen. But the **other women hurried** to the grave and **went inside**. They **didn’t see** Jesus’ **body** anywhere. But what they did see **amazed** them! In the cave sat an **angel**, wearing a white robe that was as **bright as lightning!**

The women were **filled with fear**. But the angel said to them, “**Don’t be afraid**. You are **looking for Jesus** of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is **not here**. He has **risen**, just as **he said** he would. **Come see** for yourselves!” Then the angel told them, “**Go and tell Jesus’ disciples** that he has **risen** from the dead. Tell them that they will soon **see him again.**”

Now the women were **filled with joy** because of the angel’s message. They **ran** all the way back to **Jerusalem** to **tell the disciples** the good news. Jesus had **risen!** He was **alive!**



discuss You will write on the **board**.

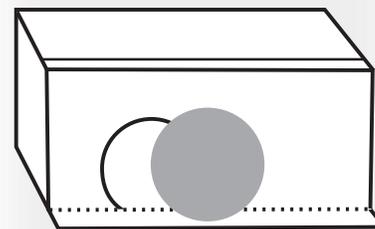
Say The Jewish day of worship was the Sabbath. It actually began Friday night and went through Saturday. The Jews did not want dead bodies hanging on crosses on the Sabbath.

Ask What did they ask Pilate to do? [*Break the legs of the men on the crosses so they would die more quickly.*]

When the soldiers went to do what Pilate asked, what did they notice about Jesus? [*He was already dead.*]

What did one soldier do with his spear? [*He pierced Jesus’ side.*]

paper, large enough to cover the opening. Put a **small box** inside as the place where Jesus’ body lay, and add some **white tissue** to represent his burial cloths. *Suggestion:* Use an **angel figurine** and **toy figures** of women to act out the story.



Give each child an **8½" x 11" piece of paper** divided into

four sections and numbered 1-4 (one number in each quadrant). **Save one page of drawings for Close** (Alternate).

Do Tell the children to locate box number 1 and draw a cross in it.

Ask What did the Jewish leaders ask Pilate to have done to Jesus and the other men who hung on crosses? [*Break their legs so they would die more quickly.*]

Say When Pilate sent soldiers to break the legs of the men, the soldiers saw that Jesus was already dead. Draw a picture in box number 2 that shows what one soldier used to pierce Jesus’ side. [*The children should draw a sword.*]

Ask What happened when the soldier pierced Jesus' side?
[Blood and water flowed out.]
 What did this show about Jesus?
[He was dead.]

Say After Jesus died, two men who loved him took his body from the cross and buried it. In box number 3, draw a picture that shows what the grave might have looked like. *[The children should draw a cave, possibly with a stone covering the opening.]*

Ask Why are graves needed?
[To bury dead people.]

Say Jesus' body was put into a grave, so we know he was dead. Jesus died to pay the punishment of death that we sinners deserve. But some people say, "Jesus wasn't really dead. He just looked dead." Look at the pictures you have drawn so far, and tell me what you could say to such people. *[The Bible tells us that Jesus was dead, and God does not lie; the soldiers saw that Jesus was dead when one pierced him with a spear; Jesus' friends buried him.]*

Ask When the women were going to Jesus' grave Sunday morning, what did they expect to see? *[Dead Jesus in the grave.]* What two things did they see that surprised them?
[The stone had been rolled

What happened when he did this? *[Blood and water flowed out of Jesus' side, showing that he was dead.]*

Do Draw or have a student draw a spear on the board.

Say It is important to know that Jesus was definitely dead. In order to take away our sins, the Savior needed to suffer the punishment that we deserve—death.

Ask What did Joseph ask Pilate? *[Joseph asked Pilate if he could have Jesus' body in order to bury him.]*

Do Draw a grave (a cave cut into a hillside).

Say Jesus was dead; that's why his body needed burying. Joseph and Nicodemus did a quick burial before the Sabbath began and closed the grave with a large stone.

Do Draw a stone that covers the opening to the cave.

Say Some women watched. They wanted to add more spices and finish the burial, but God had commanded that no work be done on the Sabbath Day and it was almost time for the Sabbath to begin.

Ask What did the women plan to do on Sunday? *[They planned to come back to the grave and put more spices on Jesus' body.]*

Say Look at the two pictures on the board.

Ask What two things were done with Jesus' body that show he was truly dead? *[His body was pierced with a spear to check if he was dead. His body was buried.]*

What question did the women ask as they walked to the grave early Sunday morning? *[Who will roll the stone away?]*

Why wasn't the stone a problem?
[It already had been rolled away.]

Say Jesus had already risen! He has power over *[death]*. The women were surprised to see an angel from God at the grave.

Ask What good news did the angel tell the women?
[Jesus has risen, just as he had said he would.]

What did the angel tell the women to do?
[Go and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen.]

Say When Jesus suffered, died, and then rose from the dead, he was keeping all the promises God had made about the Savior.

Do Write "God's Son, the Savior." Have the children read the words with you.

Ask Since Jesus kept the promises about the promised Savior, who must Jesus be? [*The Savior, God's Son.*]

Do Circle "God's Son" and "Savior."

Say Since Jesus has power over death and came back to life, we know that someday he will raise us from the dead and give us new life in heaven.

CLOSE

Say This Bible lesson shows us that Jesus was truly dead.

Ask How do we know this?
[*A soldier pierced his side; Jesus was buried.*]

Say We also learn in this lesson that Jesus is truly alive.

Ask How did some women learn that Jesus is alive?
[*An angel told them.*]

Say Jesus showed his power as God's Son by rising from the [*dead*]. He kept every promise that God had made about the one who would come and save us. Jesus is our risen [*Savior*].

Do *Pray:*
"He lives! He lives!" the angel said.
"Your Savior is no longer dead!"
I thank you, Savior, for your love;
You earned for me a home above. Amen.



at Home

Student Idea: Share the Easter story with a family member or someone who doesn't attend a Christian church. Use your student lesson and the tulip you made. Pop up your tulip at the end of the story to show your surprise message, "Jesus lives!"

Note: Send home with the tulip made as suggested in **Activity 4** under **Lesson Activities**.

away. There was an angel at the grave.]

Say Draw an angel in box number 4.

Ask What power did Jesus show to the world on that first Easter Sunday morning? [*His power over death.*] Why could Jesus have such power? [*He is the powerful Son of God.*]

Say We worship Jesus as God's Son and our Savior.

Do *Optional:* Have the children show their pictures to the children near them.



Show the spear and grave drawings from Discuss (Alternate).

Ask What do the spear and grave tell us about Jesus? [*He was dead.*] But what power does Jesus have as the Son of God? [*Power over death.*]

Say We worship Jesus as God's Son and our risen [*Savior*].

Do Sing memory treasure hymn 152:1.



Parent Idea: Do the second student lesson activity as a family, and do a Bible search. You will find passages that show Jesus was not just a good role model and teacher but the risen Son of God, our Savior.



*** The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand

of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Explain the sentence “He descended into hell” by telling the children that sometime between Jesus’ death and resurrection he went to hell—not to suffer but to announce his victory to Satan.

Hymn 152:1

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!

OPTIONAL

mid-
week
Lesson

- Begin by singing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (hymn 152:1).
- Use **Activity 1** under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
- Before class make a duplicate of **Copy Master 1** and cut apart the pictures. Write each phrase of the Second Article (as the following divisions show) on a **separate strip of paper**, and **glue** the picture mentioned at the end of the phrase. *Note:* For “dove,” remind the children that the Holy Spirit is not a dove but came to and landed upon Jesus like a dove when he was baptized.
 - “I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,” (Jesus)
 - “who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,” (dove)
 - “born of the virgin Mary,” (manger)
 - “suffered under Pontius Pilate,” (crown of thorns)
 - “was crucified,” (cross)
 - “died,” (Jesus, dead)
 - “and was buried.” (closed tomb)

“He descended into hell.” (flames)

“The third day he rose again from the dead.” (open tomb)

“He ascended into heaven” (cloud)

“and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.” (Jesus on a throne)

“From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.” (alive and dead people)

Give each child (or pair or small group of children if you have many students) a strip. Make sure that the children can read the words they have been given. Then ask the children to arrange themselves in a big circle around the room so that their strips are in the correct order. (*Suggestion:* Have the children remain in their seats until it is their turn to join the circle, rather than scramble at the same time.) Read the Second Article together. Then ask the children which part of the Second Article tells that Jesus rose from the dead. [*The third day he rose again from the dead.*] Ask the children how Jesus’ resurrection shows that he is true God. [*Only God can come back to life after death.*] Encourage the children to thank, praise, and worship their risen Savior.



- *Pray:*
 “He lives! He lives!” the angel said.
 “Your Savior is no longer dead!”
 I thank you, Savior, for your love;
 You earned for me a home above.
 Amen.

- Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Class Letter

Purpose: To review the lesson by writing a class letter from Mary Magdalene.

Procedure: Write “Dear Mother and Father” on the top of a sheet of chart paper. Tell the children you will help them write a letter as though they are Mary Magdalene. In the letter, Mary will tell her parents about Jesus’ death, burial, and the empty tomb. Then call on children to suggest sentences for the letter. Write their sentences on the chart paper. When the letter is complete, read it to review the lesson.

2. Application

Forgotten Promises

Purpose: To discuss that we sometimes forget the promises our Savior has made to us.

Procedure: Review that two friends (not part of the disciples) of Jesus buried his body. Ask the children to imagine where Jesus’ disciples were and why they didn’t ask Pilate for Jesus’ body. [They likely were hiding because they feared Jesus’ enemies.] Only John is mentioned at the crucifixion, so we can’t be sure where the others were. However, not one of the eleven disciples (Judas was dead) was brave enough to ask for Jesus’ body. The disciples forgot that Jesus had told them many times that he would die and

rise again. Then ask the children how we also sometimes show that we have forgotten Jesus’ promises to us. [Possible responses: We worry; we forget that Jesus is always with us; we doubt God’s Word.] Assure the children that just as he kept his promise to rise from the dead, our living Savior will always keep all of his other promises.

3. Music

Songs to Sing

Purpose: To sing songs that reinforce the lesson application.

Procedure: Teach and sing one or more of the following songs:

- “Jesus Came From Heaven” (**Copy Master 2**) is a short, simple song that summarizes the purpose of Jesus’ life on earth, his death, and his resurrection.
- “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” (hymn 150) and “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (hymn 157) are Easter hymns in which you can sing the stanzas and invite the children to sing the joyous “Alleluia” refrains.

4. Art

Pop-Up Tulip

Purpose: To make tulips, a popular symbol for Easter, that pop up out of a cardboard tube.

Procedure: Explain that flowers are a popular symbol for Easter because they represent new

life. Tulips are one such flower because they “pop” out of the ground early in spring when other plants still seem to be dead from the cold winter. Duplicate the tulips on **Copy Master 3** so that each child has one flower. Provide bathroom tissue cardboard tubes and drinking straws, and have the children follow these directions:

- Paint the tube green, or cover it with green construction paper.
- Color the tulip with a light color.
- Write “Jesus lives!” on your tulip with a dark crayon.
- Tape your tulip to the end of a straw.
- Roll the edges of your tulip forward slightly so that it can easily slip through the tube.
- Insert your tulip in the tube, keeping the blossom from view.

Tell the children that when they share the Easter story with others, they can pop up their tulips to reveal the message “Jesus lives!” *Suggestion:* Send the completed tulips home with the note included in **To Do at Home**.

5. Review and Apply

Nonreader

Purpose: To put pictures of story events in order, and to draw pictures of two places believers can worship the risen Savior.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 4** for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: 1. A soldier used a spear to check that Jesus was dead. 2. Friends buried Jesus. 3. An angel announced that Jesus was alive. 4. The women ran to tell others that Jesus had risen.

God’s Word in My Life: Pictures will vary but may include any places we can worship Jesus: home, church, Christian school.

Reader

Purpose: To complete sentences about the story, and to reveal a secret application message.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 5** for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: 1. SPEAR, 2. PILATE, 3. CAVE, 4. SPICES, 5. WOMEN, 6. PROMISED, 7. ANGEL, 8. RISEN, 9. ALIVE

God’s Word in My Life: MY SAVIOR LIVES!

Challenge

Purpose: To complete a crossword puzzle and reveal a hidden application message.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 6** for the children to complete. They can use their student lessons for help with finding and spelling the answers. *Suggestion:* Challenge the students to draw backward word messages (see the second activity) for one another. Have mirrors handy so they can check their work.

God’s Word in the Lesson: Across: 1. STONE, 2. WOMEN, 3. SABBATH, 4. DEAD, 5. SPEAR; Down: 6. JOSEPH, 7. GRAVE, 8. DIE

God’s Word in My Life: Answer to the question: Jesus rose from the dead. Hidden message: JESUS LIVES!

6. Other Ideas

Unit Activity: Good News Writing

Purpose: To have the children write about and illustrate what happened on the first Easter morning.

Procedure: Tell the children to pretend that they are at the grave on the first Easter morning and want to share the good news with others by writing about what they see. Have each child complete the front page of a *Good News* newspaper made from **Copy Master 7** by drawing a “photograph” of the empty grave and by writing about Jesus’ resurrection and

why it is so important. A writing challenge/
reporting suggestion will be given in the
upcoming lesson.

