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)
Looking Back at Lesson 11

Jesus Is Put on the Cross

Aim: Why did Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die?
Truth: Jesus wanted to save all people from their sins.
Application: God sent his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to save sinners.
Response: We thank Jesus for suffering pain and death on a cross to save us.

Lesson Summary: After Pilate's soldiers led Jesus out of the city, they nailed him to a cross. Jesus asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him, and he brought to faith one of the robbers being crucified. Jesus endured terrible pain as he willingly suffered and died to take away all sins.

Memory Treasure: 1 Timothy 1:15

What good news did an angel tell some women early Easter morning?

An angel told the women the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Application: Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.
Response: We trust Jesus’ promise to give us life in heaven.

Lesson Summary: On Good Friday, Jesus died for the sins of all people. Later that day, Joseph and Nicodemus asked Pilate for Jesus’ body so they could bury it. That same day, to please Jesus’ enemies, Pilate sent soldiers to guard the grave. On Easter morning, some women came to the grave and heard an angel's good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

John 11:25

resurrection—to come back to life after dying
hallelujah—praise the Lord

Note: Both tomb and grave can refer to burial places. By using both terms, you’ll help children better understand the words when they are used in church services.


Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent Jesus to live, die, and rise for me. Help my students and me always trust in your promise to give us life in heaven. How happy we will be, living there with you! Amen.
WORSHIP

Teach the children their response, and then join in the responsive prayer.

Teacher: Jesus lived
Children: For me.
T: Jesus died
C: For me.
T: Jesus rose
C: For me.
T: Thank you, Jesus! Amen.

Have the children identify each of the following either as an example of good news or bad news:

- A boy scored a goal during his soccer game. [Good news.]
- A girl spilled juice on a carpet. [Bad news.]
- A family found their missing dog. [Good news.]

Optional: Let the children tell how it feels to receive good news.

Today we will hear about really good news that came in a very special way. We will learn what good news an angel told some women early Easter morning.
Note: You’ll need to use the story in the adjacent column.

Cut apart six pictures made from Copy Masters 1 and 2. Attach them in order to a sheet of poster board to make a story picture chart. Attach a flap (sheet of paper) to the top of each picture, covering it. At the appropriate time as you tell the story, lift each flap to show the picture under it. Variation: Instead of making a story chart, simply show the pictures as you tell the corresponding parts of the story.

As you tell the story, use play dough to form the following objects: cross, spear, grave (tomb, cave). For the grave, form one large and one small ball of play dough. Make the large one into a cave. Use the small ball as a stone to close the opening. Move the stone away from the entrance to show the empty tomb. Variations: (1) Give the children play dough so they can form the objects with you. (2) When telling about the women taking spices to the grave, pass around some dried spices for the children to smell.

Jesus was put on a cross on a Friday morning. Later that afternoon, he died. Jesus had finished his work of saving sinners.

The soldiers checked to see that Jesus was dead. One of them stuck a spear into Jesus’ side. Yes, they were sure he was dead.

Later that day a man named Joseph came to Pilate. Joseph believed in Jesus as the promised Savior. Joseph asked Pilate, “May I take the dead body of Jesus down from the cross and bury it?” Pilate told Joseph that he could have Jesus’ dead body.

Nicodemus, another man who believed in Jesus, came to help Joseph. Together they took Jesus’ body down from the cross. They wrapped his body in cloth and placed it in a grave. The grave was a cave cut out of rock. The men rolled a very large stone in front of the doorway to the cave. Then they went home.

Some women who loved Jesus watched to see where the two men buried him. The women wanted to add nice smelling spices to the body. But it was late. So the women said, “We will come back on Sunday.”

The enemies of Jesus knew that he was dead, but still they were worried. They went to Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember something that Jesus said while he was still alive. Jesus said, ‘I will come back to life after three days.’ Pilate, we want you to put soldiers at the grave to guard it. We do not want someone to come and take Jesus’ body and then say, ‘He is alive!’” Pilate said the enemies could have soldiers guard the place where Jesus was buried.
But something very special happened on the third day. Early Sunday morning Jesus came back to life! He left the grave, even though it was still closed and the large stone was in front of the doorway.

Other special things happened that first Easter morning. Suddenly the earth shook and God sent an angel to roll the stone away from the empty grave. This showed that Jesus was already alive and gone. Jesus had risen!

That same morning some women were on the way to the grave to finish putting spices with Jesus’ dead body. One of women was Mary Magdalene. The women wondered, “Who will roll that big, heavy stone away from the opening to the grave?” They did not know that Jesus had risen.

When the women looked up, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. When Mary saw that the stone had been moved, she did not go any farther. She turned and ran to find the disciples. She wanted to tell them what she had seen.

But the other women went up to the open grave and walked into it. There they saw an angel dressed in a shining, white robe. The women were afraid.

But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid. You are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He is alive! Now go quickly and tell his disciples.” So the women ran into town to share the good news. Jesus was no longer dead. He had risen!

You need the story chart or the story pictures from the first option under Learn (Alternate).

Do Have children answer each of the following questions by finding and showing the correct picture. (Some pictures will not be used.)

- What did Jesus let happen on a Friday long ago so that he could take away our sins? [Jesus on a cross.]
- What did Joseph and Nicodemus do with Jesus’ dead body? [Men carrying Jesus’ body.]
- Who came to Jesus’ grave on the first Easter morning? [Group of women.]
- Whom did the women see when they went inside the open grave? [Angel.]
Show a student lesson picture.

Ask What good news did an angel tell some women who came to Jesus’ grave? [Jesus is alive!]

Say Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.

Do Say the memory treasure. Then lead the children in saying it.

Say We trust Jesus’ promise to give us life in [heaven].

Put a birthday box in your classroom. Fill it with safe, inexpensive items that children like: colorful pencils and markers, bookmarks, book bag danglers, stickers, games, small puzzles, stuffed animals, toys, and other items. Bring out the box for each birthday. Sing to the birthday child, and have him or her choose an item from the birthday box.

CLOSE

Say Listen as I sing about the good news an angel told the women who went to Jesus’ grave.

Do Sing the following words to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

An angel rolled the stone away to show the grave was empty. Jesus was not there; Jesus was not there; Jesus was not there. He rose on Easter morning!

Ask What did Jesus do on Easter morning, just as he said he would? [He rose; he came back to life.]

What do you think Jesus will do for you someday? [Raise me to life and take me to heaven.]

Do Pray: Dear Jesus, you are the powerful Son of God! Thank you
for rising from the dead just as you said you would. Help us always trust your promise to give us life in heaven. Amen.

Parent Idea: When doing the first student lesson activity, your child could either draw a large stone or could attach a stone made from paper, cardboard, or craft foam. Sing the song included in that activity so your child is ready to sing it with us during our next class.

Note: Sometime during your next class, sing the song from Close.

John 11:25

Do Teach the children their response, and then close with the following litany. Explain that hallelujah means “Praise the Lord.”

Teacher: Jesus lived and never sinned.
Children: Thank you, Jesus. Hallelujah!

T: Jesus suffered and died on a cross. (response)
T: Jesus came back to life. (response)
T: Jesus will give us life in heaven. (response)

Parent idea: What household object will your family use as the reporter’s microphone for the second student lesson activity? We look forward to hearing each family’s answer to that question!
• Begin with Activity 3 (Memory Treasure Song) under Lesson Activities.
• Use Activity 1 (Story Cube) under Lesson Activities to review the story.
• Color and cut out pictures made from Copy Master 4. Show the picture of the caterpillar, and have the children tell what it is. Attach the picture to the board. To the right of that picture, attach the picture of the chrysalis (a case that turns into a butterfly; moths form inside cocoons). Explain that the caterpillar forms a chrysalis and rests until it turns into a butterfly. Attach the butterfly picture next to the chrysalis picture, and ask where the butterfly came from. [The caterpillar changed into the butterfly.] Below the caterpillar picture, attach the picture of dead Jesus. Attach the picture of the tomb to the right of the picture of Jesus and below the picture of the chrysalis. Ask what happened to Jesus’ body after he died on a cross. [Two men buried it in a grave.] Say that the caterpillar lying inside the chrysalis (point to chrysalis picture) reminds us of Jesus lying dead in the grave. Finally, attach the resurrection picture next to the tomb picture and below the butterfly picture. Ask what happened to Jesus early on the first Easter morning. [He rose from the dead.] Say that the butterfly coming out of the chrysalis reminds us of Jesus rising from the dead and coming out of the grave. Jesus did not need an opening in the grave in order to get out. He just appeared outside the grave. Jesus is the only one with the power to make himself come back to life.

Suggestions: (1) Have each child cut out pictures made from Copy Master 4, place the pictures on a large sheet of paper in the same arrangement as on the board, and then glue down the pictures. (2) Do Activity 4 (Resurrection Project) under Lesson Activities.
• Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for rising from the dead just as you said you would. Help us always trust in you and your promise to give us life in heaven. We pray in your name. Amen.
• Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Story Cube

*Purpose:* To use pictures to review the story.

*Procedure:* Make a cube-shaped box (with sides about 6-inches square) from paper as shown in the following diagram, or use a small tissue box. Glue pictures made from **Copy Masters 1** and **2** to the sides of the cube or box. Have a child roll the story picture cube and tell about the part of the story depicted in the picture that lands on top. Repeat until several (all) of the children have had turns.

![Story Cube Diagram](image)

Easter Morning Dramatization

*Purpose:* To review part of the story by acting it out.

*Procedure:* Make a cave by placing a blanket over some chairs or a card table. Place a pillow at the opening for the stone. Place white cloth inside for Jesus' burial cloths. Choose children to portray the angel, the soldiers, Mary Magdalene, and other women. Have those children act out the story as you or a child narrates. **Variation:**

For the tomb, use a large box with a hole cut in the side.

Life in Heaven

*Purpose:* To discuss Jesus’ gift of life in heaven.

*Procedure:* Before class, draw a door on a piece of paper. Cut around the top, bottom, and one side so that the door can open and close. During class, remind the children that Jesus promises to give believers life in heaven. Then show the paper door, and have a child open and close it. Say that with a door, we can let someone in (open the door) or keep someone out. (Close the door.) Then hold the paper door closed while having the children pretend they are standing at the door of heaven. Say that on our own, we sinners can do nothing to open that door. The only way into heaven is Jesus. He died on a cross to forgive our sins. He opens the door (open the paper door) and lets us into heaven.

3. Music

Memory Treasure Song

*Purpose:* To sing about the memory treasure.

*Procedure:* Sing the following words to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.”

I am the resurrection and the life.
I am the resurrection and the life.
I am the resurrection and the life.
That’s what Jesus says.
Hallelujah!

Purpose: To praise Jesus for taking away our sins and giving us eternal life.

Procedure: Explain that the word hallelujah means “Praise the Lord.” Then teach the following words to the tune of “London Bridge.”

Hallelujah! Easter Day, Easter Day, Easter Day! All our sins are washed away, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Jesus lives, Jesus lives, Jesus lives! Now eternal life he gives, Hallelujah!

Other Songs

Purpose: To sing other songs related to the lesson.

Procedure: Teach one or both of the following songs:

• “My Sins Have Been 4-given” 🎵 from Copy Masters 5.1 and 5.2.
• “Love in a Box” from Children’s Garden of Songs or Little Ones Sing Praise (Concordia Publishing House). Suggestion: Make the following props out of construction paper or poster board: box, bag, jar, tomb, and heart. Laminate them if possible. Cut an opening in the middle of each prop. Have the children use a bubble pipe and blow bubbles through the opening in the prop that goes with each stanza. The teacher or a child can hold the prop while another child blows the bubbles.

4. Art

Butterflies

Purpose: To make a familiar symbol of Easter.

Procedure: Explain that people often display butterfly decorations at Easter. A butterfly coming out of a chrysalis (not a cocoon) is a picture of Jesus rising from the dead. Here are ways to make butterflies. Try one or more.

• Have each child decorate and cut out a butterfly made from Copy Master 6.
• Have each child trace both feet on construction paper and cut out the tracings. The child can either glue them to another piece of paper in the shape of a butterfly and add a large craft stick at the center for the body or just glue the tracings to a craft stick and fold up the wings to look like a butterfly in flight. The children can decorate their butterflies with glitter, sequins, and other craft items.
• Give each child an 8-inch square of colored tissue paper. Have each child form a butterfly’s body by bunching up the middle of the tissue paper and wrapping a pipe cleaner around it. Add a second pipe cleaner for the antennae. Suggestion: Attach the completed butterflies to a bulletin board entitled “Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life!”

Resurrection Project

Purpose: To make a project that celebrates Jesus’ resurrection.

Procedure: Explain that we sometimes use a caterpillar changing into a butterfly as a picture of Jesus rising from the dead. (See Optional Midweek Lesson for an explanation.) Then have the children make caterpillars from egg cartons. Have each child use markers to color a row of six cups cut from a cardboard egg carton. Have the children add features such as pipe cleaner antennae and wiggly eyes. Place each caterpillar inside its own crumpled, brown paper lunch bag “chrysalis.” Compare a caterpillar lying in a chrysalis to Jesus’ dead body lying in a grave.

During your next class, have each child make a butterfly. Have the children remove their caterpillars from their sacks and place their butterflies near the open ends. The new life of a butterfly is nice, but it is nothing compared to
Jesus coming back to life and promising us new life in heaven.

5. Other Ideas

**Work Out the Wiggles**

**Purpose:** To use an action rhyme about Jesus saving us and giving us life in heaven.

**Procedure:** Say the following rhyme, and have the children do the actions:

Jesus loves me very much. *(hug self)*
For me his life he gave. *(point to self)*
He died upon a wooden cross;
*(form cross with arms)*
Was buried in a cave. *(crouch down, put head down, and cover with arms)*
Then Easter came; oh, happy day!
*(on “oh, happy day!” jump straight up)*
My Jesus is alive. *(jump with arms outstretched)*
And someday he will take me up *(point up)*
To heav’n with him—alive!
*(jump again with arms outstretched)*

**Action Rhyme**

**Purpose:** To learn an action rhyme about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

**Procedure:** Say the following words, and have the children join in doing the actions. Repeat.

This is Jesus straight and tall.
*(hold up pointer finger)*
His heart is full of life for all. *(curl fingers down and touch tips, touch thumbs to make heart)*
This is the cross on which he died.
*(make cross with index fingers)*
These are his friends who cried and cried.
*(hold up all fingers)*
Here is the tomb where Jesus lay.
*(cup hands together to make tomb)*
These are two soldiers, both afraid.
*(hold up two fingers)*
Jesus is alive! He is not here.
*(hold out empty hands)*
Jesus loves us all. He’ll always care. *(hug self)*

**Picture of Jesus**

**Purpose:** To see an Old Testament picture of Jesus.

**Procedure:** Briefly tell the story of Jonah (see Year 3, Winter, Lesson 1, and Jonah 1–3). If possible, show a student lesson picture. Explain that Jonah being inside the large fish for three days is a picture of Jesus being in the grave for three days. In Matthew 12:40, Jesus mentions this comparison.