

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Thirty Two - Death & Resurrection

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

We have now reached the climax of the Story of Scripture. Many have said the cross is the pinnacle of our faith, but really it is one half of the event which changed everything. It is both Jesus' death and resurrection, together as one event, which bring us life and allow us to enter into God's presence. Pray for the kids to see clearly this week how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection change everything!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus' death paid for our sins & his resurrection offers us new life

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Finish This Sentence**

Ask the kids to answer what goes with each pair:

Peanut butter and... / mom and... / salt and... / ketchup and... / hamburgers and... / up and...

Let them know today's lesson covers two things that must go together for those who follow Jesus - his death and resurrection.

Sing Together

Story - from Luke 23 & 24

After Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested by Roman soldiers, he was brought to their governor, Pilate. After talking with him Pilate decided to release Jesus because he had done nothing wrong, but the crowd starting screaming and demanding for Jesus to be killed. This was just seven days after the crowd had been yelling for Jesus to save them. Pilate gave in.

Jesus was beaten, whipped, and mocked. They placed a crown of spiky thorns on his head, piercing into his skin. He was forced to carry two large wooden beams placed together as a cross on his back, up a hill called 'The Skull'. They placed the cross into the ground, standing up tall, and drove large nails through Jesus' hands and feet to hang him up on it.

There were two criminals being killed the same way, one on each side of him. One started mocking Jesus along with the crowd, but the other asked Jesus to remember him when he went into God's kingdom. Jesus assured him that no matter what he had done, because of his faith in him he would enter paradise with Jesus. Jesus also prayed and asked the Father to forgive the very people who were beating, insulting, torturing, and killing him. Jesus loved people all the way up to the end.

By now it was noon on Friday. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The Temple curtain which once separated people from God's presence split right down the middle. Jesus cried aloud, "Father, I place my life in your hands!" Then he breathed his last. When the captain there saw what happened, he honored God: "This man really was innocent and good!"

All who had come around as spectators to watch the show, when they saw what actually happened, were overcome with grief and headed home. Those who knew Jesus well, along with the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a respectful distance and kept watch. Nothing happened. Jesus really was dead. Some of his followers buried him in a tomb and paid honor to him.

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[pause for a moment... then continue on the next page]

On Sunday morning at the crack of dawn, some of the women who loved and followed Jesus came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the huge stone that was blocking the entrance rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of Jesus. They were confused, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men dressed in bright dazzling clothes appeared. The women were awestruck and bowed down. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and on the third day rise up?"

Then they remembered Jesus' words. They ran with excitement to tell the rest of Jesus' friends and followers that he was no longer dead, but had come back to life! They still didn't quite know just how this would change everything... for them, and for all the world.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why did Jesus have to die? What did that do for the world?
- How do you think Jesus could forgive people while they were killing him?
- When he died, the curtain in the temple that separated people from God's presence was torn in half. What do you think this means?
- How did Jesus come back to life?
- Why does it matter that Jesus is no longer dead and lives forever?
- Do you think it's possible for you and I to have life forever like Jesus?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
Father, thank you for new life in Jesus! Thank you for your Spirit alive in us!
Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Use the coloring sheet attached
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Sabbath** rhythm. Jesus rested in the tomb 3 days but we can now find rest in him. Take some time with your family this week to rest and play, while thanking God for His salvation.

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