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THE EMPTY TOMB

The Resurrection

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 20; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. An angel was at the tomb and announced what had happened to Jesus.
- The disciples' sadness and confusion was replaced by joy when they realized that Jesus was risen.
- Jesus conquered sin and death when he died and rose again. He now has a glorious new eternal body. He is the Forever King. It was a new beginning for God's people.
- When we believe in Jesus and follow him, we are a new creation. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that we who are united to him by faith, will be resurrected to everlasting life too. We will also rise from the dead and will be given a glorious, new and eternal body like Jesus has; we will live in God's Kingdom with Jesus as the Forever King.

Memory Verse "Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 - NIRV)

ACNA The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Catechism Connection Q 29 What is in the New Testament? ...contains the record of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection...

Q 64 What does the Creed mean when it affirms that Jesus again rose from the dead? ...God restored him physically from death to life in his perfected and glorious body, never to die again. His tomb was empty: Jesus had risen bodily from the dead.

The risen Jesus was seen by his apostles...

Q 144 What do you know about the resurrected bodies of believers? ..that they will...be fully renewed in the image of Christ, being fully glorified in him.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

Outside the classroom (for the first part of the story):

- Large cross
- Sign saying "Good Friday" on one side and "Easter Sunday" on the other side
- Classroom "entrance" windows to be covered so the children cannot see into the classroom.
- 3 cue cards for the children to ask/tell the angel:

STUDENT #1: He is alive, and he has a new, eternal body?

STUDENT #2: What did the disciples think?

STUDENT #1: This makes us excited too!! Jesus is the Forever King! Jesus is alive!

Inside the classroom (for the second part of the story):

- Picture of the empty tomb
- White cloths to represent the burial cloths
- Song: He's alive again
- Basket of red boiled eggs (optional)
- Chocolate Easter eggs to be hidden around the classroom (optional)

Costumes: Mary Magdalene and two other women, Angel (adult)

Memory Verse: "Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.



Outside classroom



Inside classroom

2 | Lesson Outline – In this story it is suggested that you only do the story, life application and related activities.

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Props/Costumes	PLEASE NOTE: In this lesson the story and life application comes <u>before</u> the liturgy and music. Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</p>
Related activities	Proceed with related activities found in Section 5.
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. See Resource Section.

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

As the story comes first in this lesson, the poster can be used at the end as a review of the story.

What do you see in this picture? (empty tomb, women, sunshine)

I wonder who was in the tomb.

I wonder why the tomb is empty.

I wonder why the women are there.

Is there anything else you are wondering about in this picture?



4 | Story and Life Application

NOTE: *If your classroom door has windows, cover the windows with black paper (or black plastic bags) so the children cannot see into the classroom.*

Have the cross outside of the classroom with the sign, "Good Friday" at the base of the cross. Do not let the children go into the classroom. Start the story in the hallway.

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from Gospel of Matthew, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *Omit the summary for this lesson.*

STORY:

TEACHER: Last lesson, we talked about Jesus dying on the cross. The disciples were sad and confused. They expected Jesus to live until he became king here on earth. But instead, the Forever King had been hung on the cross and was dead. After Jesus' death on the cross on the Friday, they took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in white linen and put it in a tomb.

The Jewish leaders were nervous that the disciples might come and steal the body, so they had soldiers guard the tomb during the day and night.

Now, it is three days later....it is Easter Sunday.

ACTION: *Change the sign at the base of the cross to "Easter Sunday" (3 days later).*

TEACHER: On the third day after Jesus had died on the cross, Mary Magdalene and her friends got up very early to go to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Look here they come now (point to the 3 women)

ACTION: *The 3 women enter and they are crying. They walk by the children crying in the hallway and enter the classroom. The door is shut. After a few seconds, Mary Magdalene comes running out of the classroom.*

MARY: Help, help! The soldiers are gone. The big stone that covered the entrance of the tomb has been moved. Jesus is gone!! Come, come and see. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb".

TEACHER: Let's go in and find out what has happened.

ACTION: *Take the children inside the classroom. There should be a picture (or setting) of a tomb and linen cloths. An angel appears from behind the picture or structure of a tomb.*

ANGEL: (to the children) Why are you here? Why are you looking for Jesus among the dead? He is not here.....Jesus has risen. Remember when Jesus said to you that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise again.

Do you remember?

TEACHER: Yes we remember but where is Jesus?

ANGEL: He is alive. He is risen from the dead!

TEACHER: Yes, he now has a glorious new eternal body!

STUDENT #1: He is alive, and he has a new, eternal body?

ANGEL: He conquered sin when he died on the cross, and he conquered death when he rose from the grave. No-one else could do that. Only God the Son could do that. He is the Forever King!

STUDENT #2: What did the disciples think?

TEACHER: At first, the disciples found it hard to believe– but, now they know it is true. Jesus is alive and they are filled with JOY!

STUDENT #1: This makes us excited too!! Jesus is the Forever King! Jesus is alive!

TEACHER: The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that we who are united to him by faith, will be resurrected to everlasting life too. We also will rise from the dead and will be given a glorious, new and eternal body just like Jesus. We will live in God's Kingdom with Jesus as the Forever King.

Let's celebrate. Let's sing the song "He's alive again"

He's alive again, the stone's been rolled away.

He's alive again, he is no longer in the grave.

He's alive again, I can hear the angel say

Let all the world rejoice, He's alive.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He truly is the Son of God, he is powerful, he overcame death, he has a glorious eternal body)
- **How does this event change how I live?** (I am thankful that Jesus overcame death. I can live knowing that, if I follow Jesus, I will live with him forever and someday I will have a new and glorious eternal body too.)
- **How did Mary feel when she saw that the stone was rolled away?**
(frightened, confused, sad)
- **Who told Mary that Jesus was not in the tomb, but that he was alive?**
(an angel)
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?** (by his perfect life and sacrificial death, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. He conquered sin on our behalf.)
- **Why is it important that Jesus rose again from the dead?** (Jesus defeated even the enemy of death, so he could give us new life. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that we who are united to him by faith, will be resurrected to everlasting life too.)
- **If we believe and follow Jesus, what will happen to us when we die?** (we will also rise from the dead and will be given a glorious, new and eternal body like Jesus has; we will live in God's Kingdom with Jesus as the Forever King)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Let's read our memory verse again. (*Read the memory verse.*) What does it mean to be a new creation?

Before I started following Jesus, I knew that I (*put out left hand palm up which represents you*) was made in God's image BUT I did not have HIS life (*with left hand point to heaven*) in my heart (*with left hand point to your heart*). I was sinful (*sad face*).

On the other hand, (*put out right hand, which represents Jesus*) Jesus died for my sins! He rose from the grave (*raise right hand palm up*) and He can now live in us! (*With right hand point to heart.*)

He lives in me! (*Place both palms of hands together.*)

So when you put your hands together like this, (*prayer hands*) or like this, (*intertwined fingers*) remember that when we believe in Jesus and follow him, he forgives us our sin and now lives within us and gives us power to live for him.

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- **EASTER EGG HUNT:**
Bring out the basket of red boiled eggs and explain the meaning to the children: The egg is seen by followers of Christ as a symbol of the resurrection. In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross. The hard shell of the egg symbolizes the seal – the tomb of Christ. The cracking of the egg symbolizes his resurrection from the dead.
Have chocolate Easter eggs hidden around the room for the children to find.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Learning station: Modelling clay

"Anyone who
believes in Christ is
a new creation. The
old is gone! The new
has come!"

(2 Corinthians 5:17)