

General Church Education



The Crucifixion and the Risen Lord

Matthew 27, 28

Lesson 33

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE CRUCIFIXION & THE RISEN LORD

MATTHEW 27:35-37, 45, 50-53; MATTHEW 28:1-8

Children often feel the sadness of the Easter story. In the drama of the last days of the Lord's life they are often horrified at the evil they recognize in those seeking to put the Lord to death.

The story of Easter morning tells of the Lord's final triumph over the hells. He came into this world in order to allow the hells to attack Him in the human He inherited from Mary. Their defeat on Easter morning, when the Lord rose from the tomb, signaled the end of their power to dominate people in this world and in the spiritual world. As the Lord glorified His Human, His saving power became more accessible to all people for all time.

We know that when people "think about the Lord's suffering on the cross, angels perceive His glorification, and then only His resurrection" (*True Christian Religion* 706). Our lesson today emphasizes the Lord's power over evil, and His great love for us.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can share the joyful vision of our Risen Lord and Savior.
- The Lord's resurrection shows His power over evil and His love for us.
- The Easter story renews the Lord's covenant with all people. Because of the Lord's glorification, He can now be more fully present than ever before. In His Divine Human, we are able to see Him more clearly, and understand what He wants us to do to live a life leading to heaven.

FROM THE WRITINGS

No mortal could have been saved, if the Lord had not come into the world. He came into the world to take hell away from men, and He did this by fighting against hell and winning victories over it. In this way He subdued it and reduced it to order, and made it subject to His command. He came into the world to glorify the Human which He assumed in the world, that is, to unite it with the originating Divinity. By this means He keeps hell for ever in order and subject to His command. Since this could only be achieved by means of temptations experienced in His Human, even to the most extreme, His passion on the cross, He underwent this.

It is a universal point of faith on the part of man to believe in the Lord; for this belief links him to the Lord, and this is the way to salvation. Believing in Him means having confidence that He is the Savior; and since only those who lead good lives can have such confidence, this too is meant by believing in Him. See *True Christian Religion* 2.2-3

THE CRUCIFIXION & THE RISEN LORD

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord allowed the Pharisees to try to kill Him so that He could rise again, proving that He was truly God.

The Risen Lord God Jesus Christ is our Savior.

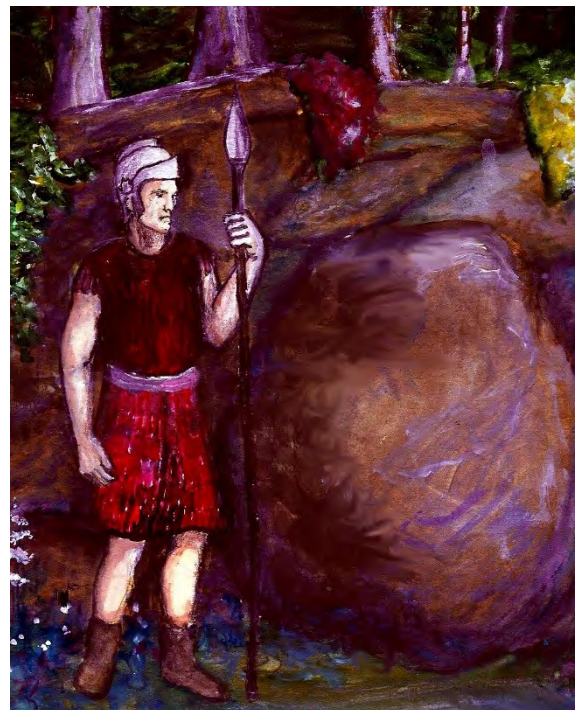
When we worship Him and follow Him, He will lead us to heaven.

The Lord came into the world to heal people and teach the way to heaven. He was gentle and kind. He came to help all people. This part of the story can help us to see the terrible evil with those people who cared only about themselves, hating the Lord and wanting to kill Him.

After the Lord was arrested on the Mount of Olives He was condemned to die on the cross. Soldiers took the Lord to a place called Golgotha where they crucified Him. Listen as we read the story about the Lord on the cross. Read Matthew 27:35-37.

We know that the Lord came into the world to fight against the evil spirits. Evil spirits hate the Lord so much that they would like to kill Him. When the Lord was crucified, it looked like the evil spirits were winning the battle against the Lord. The next part of our story tells what happened when the Lord was on the cross. These things happened to show people that the Lord still ruled heaven and earth, even when He was on the cross. Read Matthew 27:45, 50-53.

While the Lord was on the cross, there was darkness over the earth. Even though it was the middle of the day, it looked like night. What are some of the other amazing things that happened? When these things happened, the Lord "yielded up His spirit." The Lord's body was buried in a new tomb that was a cave carved out of rock. A huge rock was rolled in front of the opening of the cave and soldiers guarded it. We now will read about the greatest miracle that ever happened. Read Matthew 28:1-8.



The two women who came to the tomb were both named Mary. To their joyful surprise they found an angel sitting on the rock that had covered the tomb. The Lord's rising from the dead was so powerful that it had caused an earthquake. The angel comforted them. The angel showed them inside the empty tomb and said, "He is not here; for He is risen as He said." The angel gave the women a message for the disciples from the Lord, "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." Read Matthew 28:9 and 10.

The Lord Himself had come to reassure the women that He was alive. The women were so happy they worshipped Him and held His feet. This news that the Lord has risen is for us to celebrate too! The Lord wants us to know that He is alive. He is our risen Savior. We, like the two women, can worship Him. We, like His disciples, can follow Him. We, like the crowds of people who listened to the Lord, can hear and obey His teachings that we read in the Word. The Easter story can help us remember that when we do these things, the Lord promises us the happiness of heaven. His resurrection from the tomb is a promise to us that after we die, He will raise our spirits into heaven. This is why the angels in heaven rejoice with us as we celebrate Easter.



DISCUSSION

- What things happened while the Lord was on the cross, to show that the Lord still had all power? (*There was darkness in the middle of the day; the earth quaked; rocks were split; the veil, or curtain, of the temple was torn; people saw visions of people who had died.*)
- Why do you think the miracle of the Lord rising from the tomb is the most amazing of all miracles? (*Answers might include - the Lord rose with His body, He didn't leave anything behind, that never has happened before and never will happen again.*)
- Easter is a happy time. It is a celebration of life and of the Lord's love. Does your family have a special way of celebrating Easter? Are there things that you especially like to do to show your love to the Lord at this time? (*Possible answers—sing songs of praise, have a family dinner, bring flowers into the house.*)



THE CRUCIFIXION & THE RISEN LORD | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation. Note: This longer recitation is used for all four Easter lessons. Give child(ren) as much help as they need to say the recitation, and shorten it if necessary.



Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Matthew 28:1-8

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- **Morn of Joy and Morn of Praise!**
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-morn-of-joy-and-morn-of-praise/>

Video

- **Jesus Is Risen (story from the Word)**
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-is-risen/>

Projects

- He Is Risen Project
- Picture to color

He Is Risen Project

This project brings home the message of the empty tomb and the miracle of the risen Lord.

Supplies needed

- 1 dinner-sized paper plate, approx. 9"-10" (23cm-26cm) in diameter
- 1 piece white stiff paper 3"x3" (7cm x 7cm)
- brown or gray watercolor paint
- paintbrush
- stapler
- scissors
- tape
- pencil
- crayons or markers



Directions

1. Lightly paint the paper plate inside and out with a brown or gray watercolor wash. Set aside to dry. Use a hairdryer if you need to speed this up.
2. Draw an angel on the piece of 3"x3" (7cm x 7cm) paper. Cut the angel out. Decorate with glue and glitter to make the angel special.
3. Glue the angel on to the side of the plate that you would serve food on. Place the angel, in the center of the top half of the plate.
4. Bend the plate in half, hiding the angel inside. (When the plate is closed up, the angel should be on the upper half of the plate, right side up.) Make a small mark on the outside of the plate so you know which side the angel is on.
5. Staple the curved edges of the plate together, hiding the angel inside the "tomb".
6. Now, carefully cut a door in the tomb, starting at the center of the plate and continuing on the opposite side from where the angel is hidden inside. Save the "door" to be the stone that was rolled away.
7. Place the "stone" to the side of the door and tape it on. You should now be able to see the angel standing inside the tomb and saying, "He is not here; for He is risen as He said."



Lessons 31, 32, 33, 34

