

General Church Education



Easter: The Risen Lord

Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

Lesson 33

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

Easter: The Risen Lord

Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

While the Lord was on earth He allowed evil spirits to attack Him so that He could break their power over people and save humankind. He taught the truth so people could follow Him and choose heaven. The power of evil had become so strong that no individual could resist it on his or her own. During His life on earth, the Lord passed through all human states. He struggled with temptations and through His victories overcame the hells. His final and greatest temptation was the desire to save people apart from their free will. He could have come down off the cross and forced belief by a great miracle. But people's hearts would not have changed. This would have taken away people's freedom to believe or not. Without freedom in spiritual things, true human happiness cannot exist. By passing through death and appearing again, the Lord showed us that life is eternal and that He is with us always, even when we cannot see Him. He taught us that there is nothing that others can do to affect our eternal life. The choice is ours.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord opened the way to heaven by freeing people from the hells and destroying the power of evil spirits.
- The Lord's resurrection shows us that He is always with us, even though we cannot see Him.
- When we die we go on living with a spiritual body in a spiritual world.
- The Lord demonstrated by His resurrection that He is the God of heaven and earth, and no one can destroy Him. He is all-powerful.

From the Writings

People are created in such a way that their inner self cannot die. For people are able to believe in God, love God, and so be joined to Him in faith and love. Being joined to God constitutes life for evermore. This inner self exists with every person. The outer self is the means by which people accomplish the things they believe in and love, thus the things of the inner self. The inner self is what is called the soul and the outer self what is called the body.

The outer self that a person carries around in the world is suited to performing useful services. It is cast aside when a person dies. But the outer self that is suited to useful services in the next life does not die. This inner self is called a spirit, a good spirit and an angel if the person has been good in the world, and an evil spirit if the person has been bad in the world.

A person's spirit in the next life is in a human form, exactly as the person was seen in the world. A person can see, hear, speak, and feel, as in the world. They can think, will, and act, as in the world. This continuation of life is what should be understood by rising again. People whose thought does not rise above the level of the senses suppose that life itself resides solely in the body, and think that if this were not restored to life the person would be no more. See *Arcana Coelestia* 10591-10595

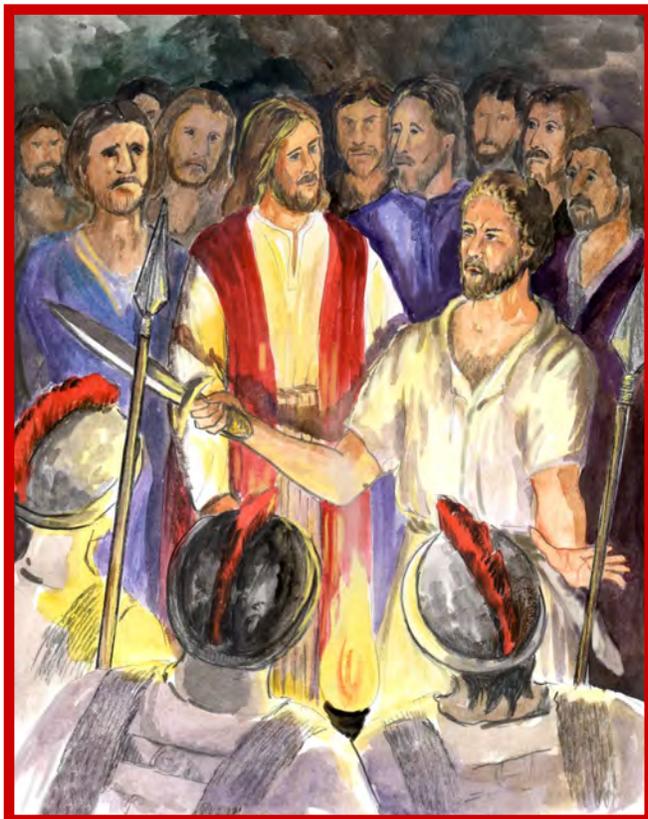
Easter: The Risen Lord

We learned how great multitudes of people welcomed the Lord as King when He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The disciples put their garments on the colt and others spread their garments in the road as He came into the city. The people waved palm branches and shouted a joyful welcome because they expected Jesus to lead them to victory over the Romans who ruled at this time. But the Lord had a more important victory in mind. He had told His disciples plainly what would happen. He told them that He would be killed, but they did not remember. Perhaps they did not want to think of such a thing happening.

The first two days of that last week, Jesus taught openly in the temple. Then, when it was obvious that He was not going to gather an army and fight the Romans, many began to be discouraged and became unhappy with Him. The jealous Scribes and Pharisees began to turn the people against Jesus. They said He was only pretending to be their king and should be put to death. We wonder how so many could have hailed Him as their king on Sunday and then a few days later call for His death.

Jesus Is Crucified

On Thursday of that week, Jesus came into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast with His disciples. Afterwards He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. It was here that one of

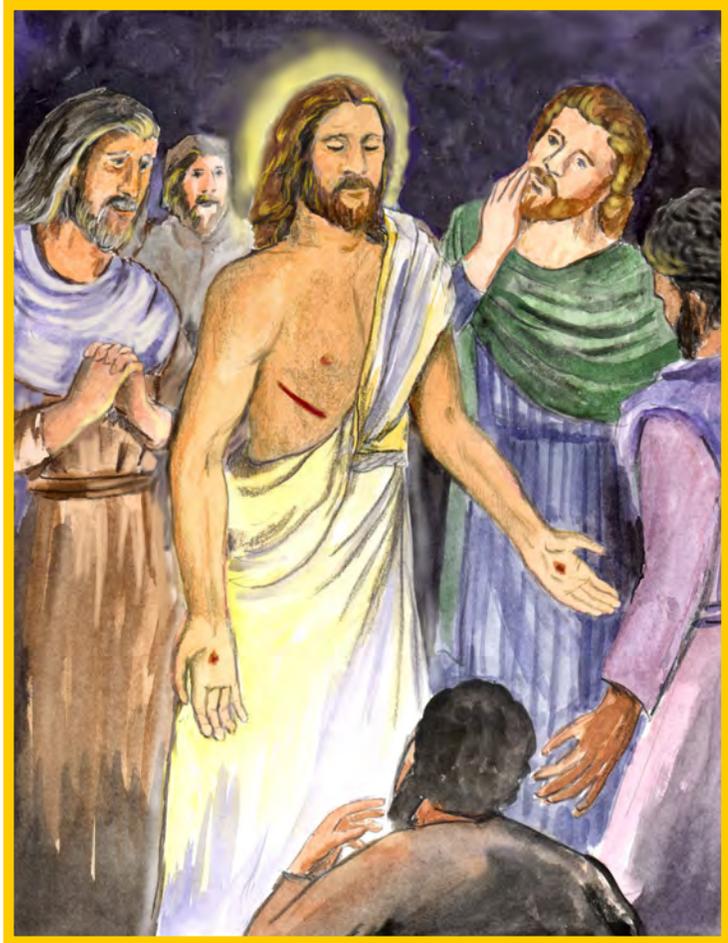


His disciples betrayed Him. Judas came with soldiers and a crowd of angry people to arrest Jesus. Judas had told them that he would kiss the one they wanted to arrest. The soldiers took Jesus away to the high priest's house where they accused Him of blasphemy, that is, of saying that He was the Christ when they did not believe He was. The Roman rulers allowed the people to choose to put Jesus to death. On Friday the Lord was crucified, nailed to a cross until He died. His crime was being the "King of the Jews."

When the Lord was crucified, the disciples ran away. They thought they had been wrong to believe He was the Messiah or Christ. They forgot that He had predicted His own death and resurrection. But the crucifixion was not the end of the story.

Jesus let evil men try to destroy Him to show them that they really did not have any power over Him. Another reason the Lord let this happen was so that all people for all time will no longer be afraid of death. He showed us that death is just a normal step in our life. We go on living in a spiritual body in the spiritual world.

After the crucifixion, a man named Joseph of Arimathea who had followed the Lord asked to bury Jesus' body. He wrapped it in linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that was cut out of the rock in a garden. A large stone was rolled over the opening of the tomb to seal it closed and guards were set to keep watch there. All was quiet during the Sabbath. For the Israelites, the Sabbath started at sunset on Friday night and continued until sunset on Saturday. Read the happy news of the Lord's resurrection on Sunday morning.



Read Luke 24:1-12. What did the women find when they came to the tomb early in the morning? (The stone was rolled away and Jesus' body was not in the tomb.) What did the two angels tell the women? (That the Lord had risen!) The angels reminded them that Jesus had told them He would be crucified and would rise on the third day. It was now the third day since His death.

The women ran to tell the disciples what had happened. How did the disciples react? (They did not believe the women.) But when Peter ran to the tomb and found it empty, he marveled at what had happened.

Later that day, the Lord appeared to His disciples as they gathered together to talk about the things that had happened. How do you think they felt when they saw the Lord again? Let's read on and find out how they knew it was Him.

Read Luke 24:36-43. How did the Lord greet the disciples? ("Peace to you.") How did the disciples react? (They were frightened and thought they had seen a spirit.)

What showed them that this was not a spirit? (Jesus showed them His hands and feet that had been nailed to the cross, then He ate some broiled fish and honeycomb.)

Then the Lord reminded His disciples of the things He had told them about Himself. They had not understood these things at the time, but now their understanding was opened so they might know why Christ had to suffer and rise from death.

The Lord led His disciples out of the city to Bethany where He lifted up His hands and blessed them. As He blessed them, He was lifted up into heaven. The disciples finally knew that Jesus was God and so they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Keeping Our Faith Strong

Is it hard to understand how the disciples could have forgotten what the Lord had told them about His dying and rising again? How do you feel when you are sad or discouraged? It is not easy to think of hopeful thoughts, is it? But after the disciples saw the risen Lord, they forgot all their sadness. They went out with courage and faith as they told people about the Lord and began a church called the Christian Church. The Christians were not afraid of death. They no longer felt alone because they knew the Lord would always be with them, even when they could not see Him with their natural eyes.

The disciples remembered that the Lord had told them His kingdom was not of this world. Now they understood what that meant. They spread the good news about heaven and eternal life to everyone who would listen.



Discussion Questions

- What do you think it means that the Lord's kingdom is not of this world? (The Lord's kingdom is heaven. He said that heaven is within us when good and true thoughts and peaceful, happy feelings fill our minds. He came to teach us how to live heavenly lives.)
- How can we learn to know the Lord now that He is no longer living on earth? (We can read the Word, learn about His life and learn the things He taught. We can pray to Him.)
- When you are afraid or discouraged, what can you do in order to lift your mind out of sadness? (Answers may include the ideas that we can remember that we are not alone, the Lord is always with us, that the Lord's infinite power can bring good from evil if we cooperate with Him, that serving the Lord and the neighbor even in small ways in our daily life brings us into the happiness of heaven.)

Activity Overview | Easter: The Risen Lord

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Luke 24:50-53

Song

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-christ-the-lord-is-risen-today/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Easter Morning Torn Paper Collage
- Activity 2 | The Lord Rises from the Tomb
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch *Jesus Is Risen*, a video telling the story of Easter Sunday at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-is-risen/>
- Make a miniature garden on a tray using natural materials such as moss, rocks, and plants. Create figures from clothespins or modeling clay to re-create the scene of the Lord's resurrection.

Activity 1 | Easter Morning Torn Paper Collage

Create a simple torn paper collage of the two Marys seeing the angel at the tomb on Easter morning.

Materials

variety of colored paper (green, purple, yellow, orange, pink, brown, grey, black)
large rectangular piece of blue or black paper
white paper for creating an angel and the women
crayons or colored pencils
scissors
glue

Directions

1. Tear paper lengthwise unevenly to create the shapes of mountains, hills, and grass. Place the shapes on top of each other to lay out a landscape, putting stronger or darker colors towards the front and lighter colors towards the back. Glue in place once you are happy with the scene.
2. Tear brown or black paper to create a rock and a burial cave. Glue to the scene.
3. Add bushes, trees, and flowers using torn paper.
4. On white paper draw the two Marys and an angel. Cut them out and glue to the scene.



Activity 2 | The Lord Rises from the Tomb

This project is inspired by an account in *Heaven and Hell* 335, which is summarized below.

Children in heaven are taught by images that are lovely and full of wisdom. In this way, there is gradually instilled into them an intelligence whose essence is from goodness. An example of this follows.

The Lord was pictured rising from the tomb, and along with this, the uniting of his human nature with his divine nature. This was done in such a wise manner as to surpass all human wisdom, but with a childlike innocence. The tomb was presented, but with the Lord present only remotely, as though he were far off. Then something ethereal was carefully let into the tomb, referring to the spiritual life represented by baptism, again from a distance.

Then I saw a representation of the Lord coming down to the captives and rising with the captives into heaven. The childlike aspect of this was that little cords were let down which supported the Lord in his ascent. Throughout it all, there was a holy fear lest anything in the images should touch on a matter in which there was not something spiritual and heavenly.

Materials

Angel Picture (option: print on stiff paper)
Lord Picture (option: print on stiff paper)
needle threaded with white thread approx. 24" (60cm) long
crayons or colored pencils
scissors
tape

Directions

1. Color the *Angel Picture* and the *Lord Picture*.
2. Cut the *Angel Picture* out on the lines.
3. Cut around the *Lord Picture*, leaving white space around the Lord if desired.
4. Create a loop of thread by carefully sewing through the small circles next to the girls' hands, from the back to front and then front to back to create a loop. Tie the thread behind the picture.
5. Attach the picture of the Lord to the loop of thread by taping the thread to the back of the picture, behind the Lord's head.
6. Represent the Lord rising from the tomb by pulling the loop of thread at the aback of the picture.

Angel Picture



Lord Picture



