

General Church Education



Crucifixion Prophecies Fulfilled

John 19:16-30

Lesson 33

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

Crucifixion Prophecies Fulfilled

John 19:16-30

For Parents and Teachers

The Lord reveals to the New Church that the cross is the symbol of His final victory over the evil flowing from hell that had afflicted people since the beginning of time. When Jesus was arrested, He could have summoned “more than twelve legions of angels” to help Him (Matthew 26:53). He could have come down off the cross. But He didn’t stop Judas from betraying Him and He didn’t stop the crowd from crucifying Him. Leaving people in freedom was more important in His divine plan, for without this freedom we would not be human. His supreme mission was to restore spiritual freedom to a human race that no longer knew Him nor the way to heavenly happiness.

In order to restore our freedom the Lord had to meet and overcome evil directly. To do this He took on a finite humanity from Mary so that He could come into contact with these evil forces. It took His infinite courage and love to win victory after victory until He faced the final and most grievous temptation on the cross. His triumph assures us that evil and falsity have no ultimate power over goodness and truth. His resurrection can give us courage when we feel weak. Using His power and our co-operation, our spiritual battles can be won.

Ideas for Children

- Prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament.
- The Lord rose again from the dead to prove that He truly is God.
- The Lord let the scribes and Pharisees try to kill Him so that He could conquer the hells and open the way to eternal life.

From the Writings

The Lord had two purposes in coming into the world, redemption and the glorification of His Human; and by these He saved both people and angels. These two purposes are quite distinct, but still they are combined in effecting salvation. Glorification, is the uniting of the Lord’s Human with His Father’s Divine. This took place by stages and was completed by His passion on the cross. *True Christian Religion* 126

Angels know the deepest joy when they think about the Lord and about the salvation of the human race, which took place because the Lord made the Human within Himself Divine. Also, to enable angels to go on experiencing that most heavenly joy and at the same time wisdom, a full description of that Divine process has been given in the internal sense of the Word. This sense includes at the same time the process by which a person is regenerated, for a person’s regeneration is an image of the Lord’s glorification. *Arcana Coelestia* 5249

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John 19:16-30

Words to Understand

crucify—to put a person to death by nailing to a cross

treason—a crime of disloyalty to your own country

testify—to make a statement of what is true or of something witnessed

resurrect—to raise up and restore to life

fulfillment—when something that has been promised happens

The Garden of Gethsemane

After the first Holy Supper, as Jesus and His disciples walked to the nearby Garden of Gethsemane, He told them plainly that some prophecies were about to come true. He reminded them of the prophecy in Zechariah 13:7, “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.” At this moment none of the disciples believed that they could ever leave the Lord. But later that very night they would scatter and leave in discouragement when Jesus was arrested. Then He told them that He would be raised up. But they probably did not understand that He spoke of His rising into heaven.

Jesus Is Captured

After praying in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus let the crowd capture Him. The religious leaders of the Jews, the scribes and Pharisees came in one large group. They were worried Jesus would take their places as religious leaders. They wanted a king who would overthrow the Roman government that was ruling them. Most of the Jewish people wanted a king who would make their nation great again. They would have gladly followed Jesus into battle against the Romans, but they did



not want to battle against their own self-centeredness. They did not want Jesus as their king because His kingdom was not of this world. If the Lord is to be king, it can only be in the hearts and minds of people who love Him more than they love power and riches. This happens when we turn to the Lord and fight our desire to put ourselves above others.

Because the Jewish people at that time were ruled by the Romans, Jesus was turned over to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, in the hope Jesus would be put to death. But Pilate could find no fault with Jesus because He had not broken the law. So Pilate tried to return Jesus to the Jews but they cried out to Pilate, “Crucify Him.” **Read John 19:16-30.**



Even though Jesus never said He would be an earthly king this was the charge against Him. Pilate had a sign put over the cross which read “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” This was written in three languages, Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The Romans considered it treason for anyone other than Caesar, their ruler, to be hailed as a king, as the Lord had been on Palm Sunday. Now, even though they hated their Roman rulers, the Jews proclaimed “we have no king but Caesar” because they wanted the Lord to be condemned by the Roman governor Pilate.

Could Jesus have saved Himself? He could have come down from the cross because He was God. He did not have to suffer physical death. But if He had saved Himself, He would not have shown us by His resurrection, which is His rising into heaven, that the death of the body is not the end of life. And such a great miracle in front of His enemies and disbelievers would have forced people to believe in Him without changing what was in their hearts. The Lord wants us to freely choose to love Him.

Jesus' Garments

Another prophecy from the Old Testament that came true at the end of Jesus' life was what happened to His garments. The soldiers divided His clothes into four parts and each took a part. However, Jesus' inner tunic was woven in one piece without seams, so it was not easily divided. So the soldiers cast lots and by this act another ancient prophecy about the Lord came true, “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they casts lots.” Psalm 22:18

Jesus Is Risen

When the Lord had finished all that He came on earth to do He called out from the cross, “I thirst.” And when He had received a drink of sour wine He said, “It is finished.” In verse 30 of our reading it says “He bowed His head and He gave up His spirit.” That night Jesus' body was taken

by one of his followers and buried in a new tomb. A guard was put by it to keep watch so that nothing could be disturbed. However, in the morning the women and the first disciples who came to the tomb found a great surprise. The body was not there. Angels told them not to weep. The Lord had risen as He said. In the next few days the Lord came to visit His disciples. He walked, talked and ate with them. Can you imagine how amazed and happy they must have been to see Him again? Then after forty days, the Lord ascended into heaven as His disciples watched.



Prophecies of the Lord's Life

Preparation for the Lord's life on earth had been made years before with many prophecies. One reason for the prophecies was to give people hope that the Lord would come and save them. It was important for the Lord to pass through the death of the physical body to show all people that He is the resurrection and the life, as He said (John 11:25). He showed that the death of the body does not change the person we really are. Death is only a doorway that opens into eternal life.

Because of what happened on Easter day and the events immediately following, we know that the Lord still lives with us. He is with us just as He was with His disciples and He always will be. We can find Him in His Word, in prayer, and in special, joyful moments when we make good choices or try to love the Lord and our neighbor.

Discussion Ideas

- The story of the crucifixion is sad. But it is an opportunity to tell children that the Lord had a divine purpose for allowing it to happen. Knowing the truth helps us prepare for eternal life. How would a person who wants to go to heaven behave?
- It can be difficult to do the right thing, especially when we experience inner conflict to do other things. What kinds of thoughts make it easier to keep doing what is right?

Activity Overview | Crucifixion Prophecies Fulfilled

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Mark 16:4-7

Songs

Lo! They Come in Glad Procession

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lo-they-come-in-glad-procession/>

Lift Up Your Heads, Rejoice

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lift-up-your-heads-rejoice/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Feelings throughout the Easter Story
- Activity 2 | Easter Morning Diorama
- Picture to Color—Peter and John Running to the Tomb (John 20)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch GCED’s HeartFelt Bible video, *The Crucifixion*, at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-crucifixion/>
- Watch GCED’s HeartFelt Bible video, *Jesus Is Risen*, at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-is-risen/>
- By His death and resurrection the Lord showed that life does on forever. How might the disciples have recognized the Lord after His resurrection? Do you think He looked and acted the same as before? How might the disciples have felt when they saw Him again?
- What does the Lord’s death and resurrection teach us about death? What would you tell someone who is afraid of death that might make them feel better about it?

Activity 1 | Feelings Throughout the Easter Story

Create a story line showing which parts of the Easter story are happy and which parts are sad.

Directions: Read the events in the bottom row of the chart. Decide whether the event is happy, neutral, angry or sad. Put a dot in the chart to show how Jesus might be feeling. Anything above the middle of the chart is happy; anything below the middle of the chart is sad or angry. The degree of happiness or sadness is shown by how far it is from the center line. Discuss your choices.

	Very happy		Neutral or mixed feelings		A little bit happy		A little bit angry or sad		Rather angry or sad		Very angry or sad
Jesus rises from the tomb	☺		☹								☹
Jesus is anointed for burial	☺		☹								☹
Jesus is crucified	☺		☹								☹
Jesus walks to the cross	☺		☹								☹
Jesus is mocked and tried	☺		☹								☹
Jesus prays in Gethsemane	☺		☹								☹
Jesus celebrates the Passover with His disciples (Last Supper)	☺		☹								☹
Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday)	☺		☹								☹

Activity 2 | Easter Morning Diorama

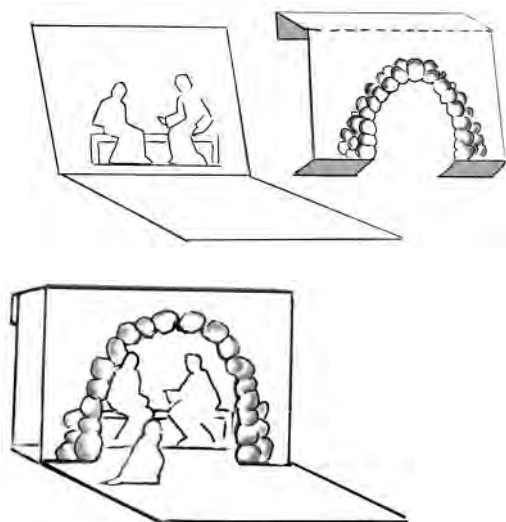
Create a diorama showing two angels talking to Mary at the tomb.

Materials Needed

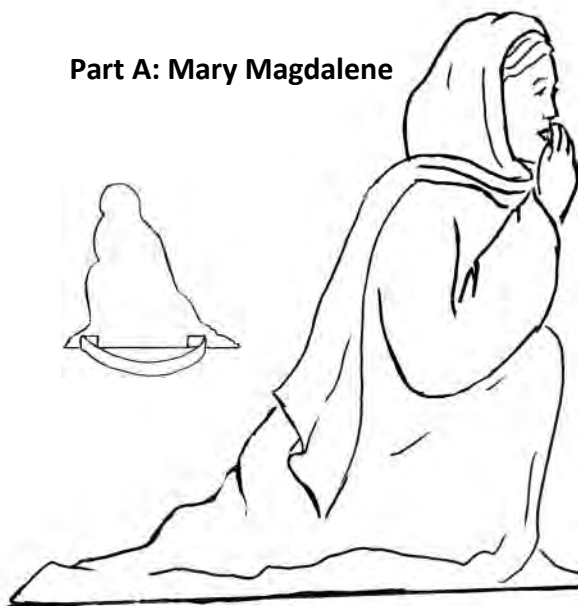
scissors
markers, crayons, colored pencils or paints
stapler or tape

Directions

1. Color the angels, the tomb and Mary. The angels' clothing was shining white. Make Mary's clothing any color you choose. The tomb was a cave in a hillside, so you may want to draw grass on the front and on top.
2. Take *Part B: Angels at the Tomb* and fold the bottom part toward you.
3. Take *Part C: The Tomb* and cut away the doorway of the tomb. Then fold along the dotted lines, folding each part back—away from you.
4. Attach *Parts B [Angels]* and *C [Tomb]* by taping or stapling the top fold of *Part C [Tomb]* to the top of *Part B [Angels]*. Then tape the bottom fold of *Part C [Tomb]* to the bottom of *Part B [Angels]*. There should still be room in front of the tomb for Mary.
5. Cut out the long rectangle and the figure of Mary. Bend the rectangle into a semicircle and tape one end to each side of the figure at the bottom. The semicircle supports Mary and allows her to be moved around the diorama to peek into the tomb.

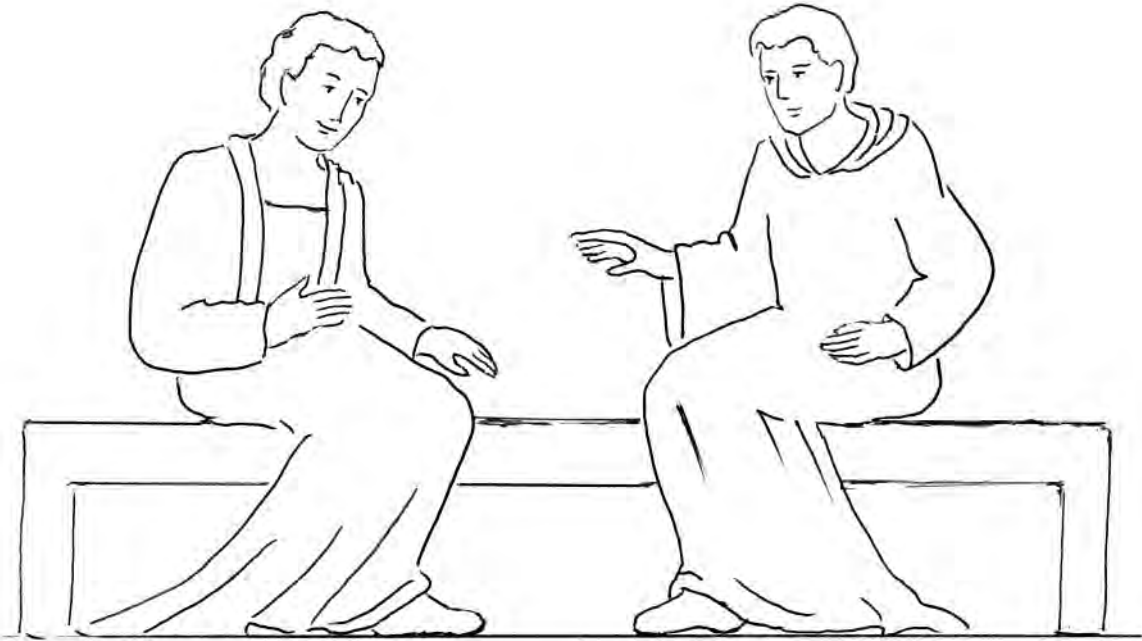


Part A: Mary Magdalene



Part B: Angels in the Tomb

Cut along line solid lines. Fold along dotted lines.



Part C: Tomb

Cut along line solid lines. Fold along dotted lines.

