

General Church Education



Easter Prophecies

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

Lesson 30

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Easter Prophecies

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

Teacher Background

At Easter the Lord accomplished the most amazing miracle. His soul was Divine but his mother, Mary, was human and so He could be tempted. Each time He conquered in temptation His human part became more Divine. He finally suffered terrible temptations, and despite experiencing sadness and pain, He fought them. With the resurrection of His body and His spirit, He became fully Divine. This process is called the “Glorification”. The Psalms and prophets prophesied the Lord’s suffering, crucifixion and resurrection many years before He came to earth. The Lord fulfilled these prophecies by rising from the tomb.

Before the Lord’s coming on earth, evil spirits had become very powerful. The spiritual world was in chaos. People could barely choose good over evil, or truth over falsity. The Lord reorganized heaven so that light could once again show good from evil. Through coming to earth, the Lord provided the truth of the New Testament, which created a new heaven for people who wanted to be good, and a new church on earth—the Christian church. He also provided a new hell for those who wanted to flee from the light of heaven.

Focus Points

- At Easter the Lord performed the greatest miracle of all.
- The Word prophesies Easter events, such as Judas’ betrayal.
- The crucifixion was the final temptation, and Jesus’ resurrection was the greatest miracle.

Readings from the Writings

“The Lord came into the world to save the human race, which if He had not done so would have perished in eternal death. He saved it by subduing the hells which were molesting every person coming into the world and going out of it, and at the same time by glorifying His Human; for having accomplished this He is able to keep the hells in subjection for evermore. The subjection of the hells and the glorification of His Human simultaneously was accomplished by means of temptations which His Human was allowed to undergo and by repeated victories in them, His passion on the Cross being the final temptation and the complete victory.” *Arcana Coelestia* 10828

“[G]lorification is the uniting of the Lord's Human with the Divine of His Father.... The union itself was made complete through the passion of the cross, because that was the last temptation endured by the Lord in the world; and it is by means of temptations that conjunction is effected.... From all this it can now be seen that it was not in respect to His Divine but in respect to His Human that the Lord suffered; and that thereby an inmost and thus a complete union was effected.” *True Christian Religion* 126

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes are we healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Easter Questions

Use a sentence or two to answer the questions.

The Passion of the Cross

The passion of the cross was the Lord’s final temptation while he was on earth. Throughout his life, the Lord fought against evil. This activity invites you to “fight against” evils by thinking of ways to “overcome” selfish thoughts that might occur to you.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Easter Prophecies and Their Fulfillments

Match prophecies about the Lord’s life from the Old Testament with their fulfillment in the New Testament. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-easter-prophecies-and-their-fulfillments.pdf>

Easter Poem

Write a cinquain, or a five-line poem, about events that happened at Easter. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-easter-poem.pdf>

Easter Prophecies

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

Vocabulary

temptation—a test of your love and commitment to what is good and true

in vain—without success

resurrection—restored to life from the dead

The King of Heaven

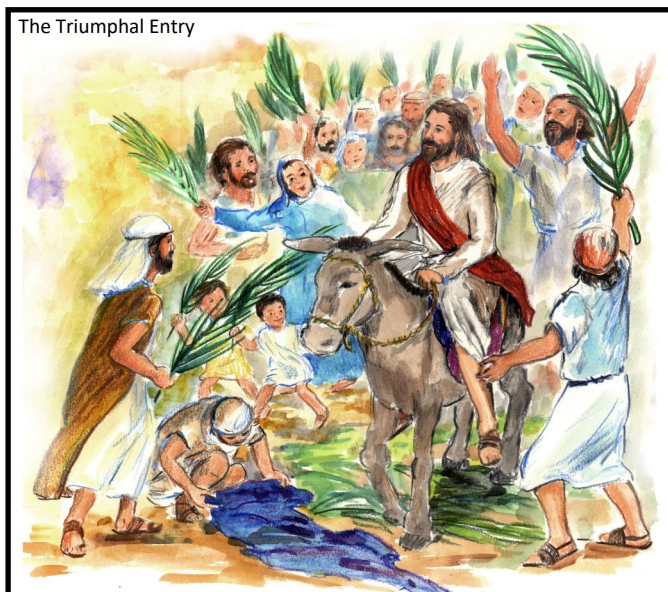
Christmas was just the beginning of the mission the Lord would fulfill while He lived on earth as Jesus Christ. As a child, he was probably like other children. He might have played with His siblings and learned from His parents. The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that He learned quickly and always did what was right. His conversation with the teachers in the temple at the age of twelve shows us how quickly he matured. As an adult He taught people many new truths about the Lord and His Word. He did miracles that showed the Lord's power. He stood up to Israel's selfish leaders. He treated the weak, the sick, the poor and all who wanted His love and care with compassion. Consequently, people welcomed Him into Jerusalem as a king. He was not an earthly king who would free Israel from the Romans. With each miracle He did and every truth He taught, He revealed Himself as the King of heaven.

The Most Amazing Miracle of All

From the time He was young, Jesus successfully fought temptations from evil spirits who wanted His mission to fail. This could happen because Jesus was born of a human mother,

Mary. The human part of Him could be tempted, just as all people can be tempted. The difference was that as to His soul, He was God. When Jesus felt like doing something wrong or giving up, it was not the God part, but the Mary part that hesitated. Every time He overcame a temptation, He made a part of the human in Him from Mary Divine.

In the final days of His life, Jesus suffered terrible temptations. Yet, in spite of sadness and pain, He fought through them. With the resurrection of His body and His spirit, He achieved His mission. People could now choose to go to heaven or to



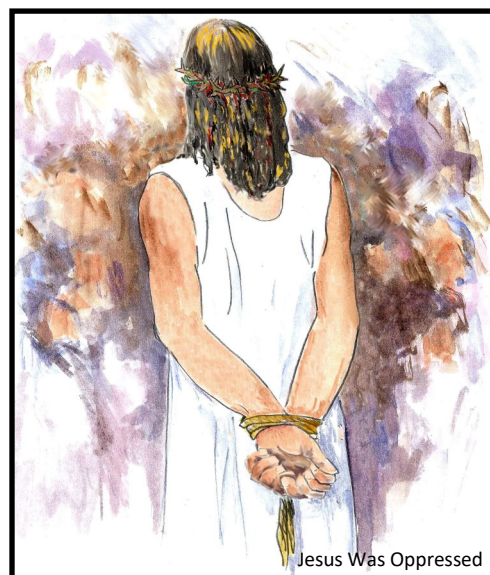
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hell, the power of the evil spirits on the earth and in the spiritual world was broken, and a new heaven was formed. The body that He took on from Mary was made fully Divine—nothing of the natural world was left. This is called the “Glorification” and is the greatest miracle of all time.

There are many prophecies about the Lord’s birth and His life on earth. Some of them foretell His final days and His resurrection—the miracle of Easter.

Judas’s Betrayal Is Prophesied

Many people followed the Lord, including twelve men who ate, traveled and discussed many things with Him. You can imagine that the Lord’s disciples became very close to Him. He would have considered them His friends—people He could trust. However, years before He was born, the Lord knew that one of them would betray Him.



“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.” (Psalm 41:9)

Judas’ betrayal was an image of the betrayal of the whole Jewish Church at that time. It was a picture of their disrespect toward the truths of the Word.

He Was Oppressed and He Was Afflicted

Judas’s betrayal was just the beginning of many terrible things that happened during the week after Jesus was welcomed as a king. The priests who took him into custody and elders of the Jews mocked Him and beat Him. They made fun of Him during and after His trials before the Jews and the Romans. As He went from Jerusalem to be crucified the people made Him carry His own cross while they spat upon Him and mocked Him. Then, as He hung on the cross, people asked Jesus why He didn’t save Himself if He was such a powerful king.

The insults and pain that The Lord suffered were prophesied many years before in the Psalms and by prophets like Isaiah.

“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised and we did not esteem Him.” (Isaiah 53:3)

These words are part of a long description of the hurt the Lord would suffer for the sake of all people on earth. However, the Lord’s very essence is love. His love for people is so great that He is willing to do whatever he can to help people choose a life of eternal happiness in heaven rather than hell. His wisdom is such that He knew exactly what would give people the best chance for making this choice.

Evil loves to attack good. Since the Lord is Goodness itself the evil people who came into contact with Him while He was on earth felt forced by the evil in their hearts and minds to try to harm Him and end His mission. They failed, as all evil fails when faced with the Lord and faith in Him. The Lord's triumph over evil enabled Him to complete His mission and save the human race from destruction.

The Final Temptation

The temptation of the cross was the most severe of all the temptations Jesus suffered. As people abused Him, all the hells were rising up against Him, tempting Him and causing the last human part of Him to feel as though He had failed. So He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34). Almost immediately after this He said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Not only was the crucifixion prophesied, but the very words Jesus spoke were given in a Psalm of David a thousand years before. They are spoken as if by the Psalmist, but they tell of the time when Jesus would suffer His greatest temptation. He would wonder if all He had done was in vain. He would even doubt the presence of God.

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not hear; and in the night season, I am not silent." (Psalm 22:1-2)

The Psalm goes on to tell of the crucifixion and the division of the Lord's garments among the people who crucified Him. However, it also speaks of a belief in the Lord's holiness and power.

The Miracle of Easter

When the Lord rose after His crucifixion He fulfilled the prophecies concerning His life and death. He was buried in a rich man's tomb, His spirit and body were resurrected, and His disciples saw Him ascend into heaven. With the fulfillment of the prophecies, the Lord's mission was complete. However, His work of caring for and protecting people was not over.

The miracle of Easter can happen for us too. Each time we choose good over evil a little more of heaven comes into our lives. As heaven grows within us, there is more room for the Lord and the angels, and less room for the evil spirits. At times overcoming temptation may seem very difficult. We may wonder if the Lord is with us—if He has forgotten us. At these times we need to remember that Jesus overcame temptations by praying, remembering the Word, and by calling out to the Lord. When we wonder if we can succeed, then we can pray, go the Lord's Word, and call out to Him. He is there, waiting for us to put our lives into His care.



Jesus Prayed

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes are we healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Easter Questions

Use a sentence or two to answer the questions.

The Passion of the Cross

The passion of the cross was the Lord’s final temptation while he was on earth. Throughout his life, the Lord fought against evil. This activity invites you to “fight against” evils by thinking of ways to “overcome” selfish thoughts that might occur to you.

Easter Questions

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

Use a sentence or two to answer the questions.

1. The Lord was born as a baby and grew up to become the greatest Prophet of all—someone who taught people how to conquer evil and choose good. In what ways do you think the Lord's childhood may have been like yours? In what ways would it have been very different?
2. When the Lord rode into Jerusalem, He was welcomed as a king. What kind of a king did the people think He was going to be? What kind of a king is He?
3. While He was on earth the Lord had to fight many temptations. How could the Lord be tempted while He was on earth?
4. Did the Lord ever give in to a temptation? Why or why not?
5. Many things were prophesied concerning the Lord's life on earth—including the events of Easter week. From the very first time people chose not to follow Him, The Lord knew that He would eventually have to come on earth to bring truths so that people could go to heaven. He also knew that He would be scorned and tortured, but He came anyway. Why?
6. Why do you think Easter is such an important time in the history of the world?
7. In many countries, Easter happens at a time when the world is waking up from a winter sleep—springtime. Because of this, certain things have come to be used to picture Easter, such as flowers, baby animals, and eggs. Why do you think this is so?

The Passion of the Cross

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

The passion of the cross was the last temptation which the Lord, as the greatest Prophet, endured, and was the means whereby His Human was glorified, that is, whereby it was united with the Divine of the Father. (*True Christian Religion* 126.6)

The Lord from His earliest childhood up to the last hour of His life in the world, was assaulted by all the hells, against which He continually fought, and subjugated [put under His control] and overcame them, and this solely from love toward the whole human race. (*Arcana Coelestia* 1690)

The Lord was born on earth as a baby. His earthly body and mind were from His mother, Mary, but He was always the Lord as to His most inner part—His soul. The most amazing miracle of all time is how the Lord changed His earthly body and mind into His Divine Human. He did this by overcoming one temptation after another so that by the time He suffered His final temptation on the cross, He had conquered all the hells. This process is called the Glorification.

Glorification is similar to the process people go through as they choose to become angels to eternity. This process is called regeneration or spiritual rebirth. Unlike the Lord, a person's earthly body does not become spiritual as he or she overcomes temptations, nor does a person on earth have to fight against all of the hells. However, like the Lord, each time a person chooses good over evil, a part of the person's earthly mind becomes more heavenly. When this process is complete, the person is an angel. He or she is regenerated.

The diagram below is a picture of a person's mind. Although no one is born evil, everyone starts out with inclinations to do evils. The diagram below names some of the evils that a person might be tempted to choose. Think about how a person could completely overcome the temptation to do that evil. For example, over "bullying" you might write "kindness". Then, using a red marker or crayon, write an opposing good over top of each word. When you are finished filling in each box, you will have a picture of an angel's mind filled with goodness and love.

Denying the Lord	Cheating	Stealing
Gossiping	Bullying	Hurting
Lying	Hating	Coveting

The earthly human mind the Lord had from Mary was completely filled with Divine Love and Divine Goodness, and so it became completely Divine.

Answers

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Easter Questions

1. The Lord grew up in the same way all children grow up. He was very different because He learned very quickly.
2. The people thought Jesus would be an earthly king. Instead, He was a heavenly king.
3. The Lord could be tempted on earth because his mother, Mary, was human.
4. The Lord did not give into temptation because His soul was Divine.
5. The Lord came on earth to save the human race.
6. Easter is important because the Lord overcame His final temptation.
7. Easter celebrates the Lord's resurrection from death and the hope of new life.