

Middle School

Teacher's Plans



April 12, 2020

Youth Topic:

He Is Not Here

Unit II. God
Promises a Just
Kingdom

Lesson

7

Background Scripture: Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15

Print Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

General Lesson:

Resurrection Hope



"Don't be alarmed," [the young man] said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6)

PREPARING TO TEACH

- **Resources Needed:** Bibles, student books, paper, pens or pencils, index cards, (**optional:** Youth Leadership Resource Kit [materials for this lesson])
- Prior to class, learn the tune and obtain copies of song lyrics for the classic gospel song "He Arose." The song will be used during the "It's Go Time!" activity.

LESSON OVERVIEW

People struggle with the probability and possibility of life after death. How can resurrection from death provide life that is different from what is experienced before death? The books of Mark and 1 Corinthians explain that life through the resurrection of Christ enables hope for authentic justice.

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

STATUS UPDATE (check-in)

Before introducing your lesson, take some time to get a quick status update from your students; check in with them to see how their week has been.

Status Update: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? "Do you think there is life after death? Explain."

It's Go Time! (illustration)

Get your students moving and thinking by using the following illustration, a game, or an activity that relates to this week's lesson.

Pass out the song lyrics to the hymn "He Arose." In celebration of Easter Sunday, invite the students to

sing the song with you. Ask for volunteers to lead one of the verses. Have fun with the song by having all the boys and girls to alternate singing a verse. If they don't know the song, find it on YouTube and play it for the class.

WAKE UP! (10 minutes)

Have the students read this week's contemporary story and connect it this week's lesson.

After the story is read, invite the students to discuss whether their family has dealt with the loss of a family member due to some kind of trauma. Allow them time to discuss. Watch closely for emotional reactions and be prepared to redirect the discussion if students become distressed. Say, "Because of Jesus' resurrection, all those who believe in Him will live eternally." Encourage the students to open their hearts and minds to the Resurrection story.

WORD UP (10 minutes)

Inspect the passage for the day. You will want to make sure that you have Bibles or copies of the passage for those who do not have a Bible with them.

Back Up! (background)

Here is some background for today's text that should be used throughout teaching this lesson—in order to set the stage for the passage.

Today's lesson highlights important meanings of the Resurrection for Christian believers. Resurrection Sunday or Easter is the holiest day of the Christian year. Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul reminds the church of the "good news" which is the foundation of the Christian faith. Christians believe that Jesus Christ died and was buried, and that God raised Him from the dead. Jesus's victory over death gave the world a second chance to be redeemed from sin. Some people did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Paul challenged the thinking of those people by giving them supported evidence that many of Jesus' disciples actually saw Him die on the Cross, and they saw Him after the Resurrection. Paul, too, saw Jesus after the Resurrection. Paul's personal encounter with Jesus qualified him to speak boldly as an eyewitness to Jesus' resurrection.

In verse 12, Paul wanted to clear up confusion and unbelief concerning Jesus' resurrection. Many Greeks did not believe in the possibility of resurrection. Paul explained that without the Resurrection, anything else they believed about Jesus' being the Savior of the world was useless. The resurrection of Christ is the center of the Gospel message. Because Jesus conquered death and is alive, we know He is God. That's what makes Him superior to every other god—Jesus lives!

After death, all who believe in Jesus will share in His resurrection. In verses 42-44, Paul talks about how our physical bodies will eventually wear out. But our resurrected or spiritual bodies will live eternally without wear or decay, and we will live in the Lord's presence forever.

It's Text Time! (Scripture)

Here is the New International Version of today's Scripture. However, you may consider studying another one or two translations in preparation for leading.

(1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45)

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received

and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

.....

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

.....

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

.....

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

WORK OUT (10 minutes)

Examine the intersections of the passage. What is the passage about? How was it heard at the time? How does it apply now?

After the text in this section of the student book is read, say, "Today's Scripture passage is very important because Paul makes it clear that Jesus rose from

the dead, just as Scripture predicted. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the central message and foundational belief of the early Christian church (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Because of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary, we owe Him our loyalty and devotion. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection saved us from sin, death, hell, and the grave. Paul reminds the church of the "good news" that is the foundation of their faith (see 15:1). Paul realized that some believers' faith was challenged, when they said there is no resurrection of the dead. Paul assured doubters that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead. Death's power over believers has been destroyed by Jesus Christ and He gives all that believe on Him, whether living or dead, the victory over death (see 15:12).

Inside Out (interpretation)

Work on the passage from the inside out. Allow time for the students to raise their own questions about the Scripture.

After the students ask and answer their own questions about the text, ask them to consider why some people doubted Jesus' resurrection. Tell the students that Paul was able to give eyewitness reports about how Jesus made Himself visible to some of His followers after the Resurrection. Paul was also privileged to see Jesus and he shared his personal experience as well. Encourage the students to learn more about the events of the Resurrection.

There's an App for That! (application)

Show how this Scripture applies to present day.

Believers have the peace of knowing that just as Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead, they too can have eternal life if they die believing in Him. Christians can look forward to a spiritual home in heaven where they will live with Jesus forever. Talk to the students about salvation. Ask them if they have accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Prepare to tell the students how to receive salvation.

WALK OUT (10 minutes)

Help the students think about how this Scripture connects to them personally.

Invite the students to think about how God's plan of salvation for the world included the finished work of Jesus on Calvary's Cross. Emphasize the point that Jesus' work was "finished" when He was raised from the dead. Remind the students that God's love for humanity moved Him to sacrifice the most precious gift He had, which was His Son, Jesus Christ. Remind the students that the Resurrection story is good news!

Stepping Out! (challenge)

Give the students this challenge for the week. Emphasize that they can do it!

Challenge the students to create a visual representation of the Resurrection. Encourage them to draw three pictures: Jesus hanging on the cross; Jesus being put in a tomb; Jesus being resurrected from the dead. Invite others to help you create the pictures if you choose. Pray and ask God to increase your faith about the Resurrection. Support the students in finding pictures on the Internet that provide inspiration for their drawings.

It's Game Time! (Answer Key)

Have the students see how many words they can make by rearranging the letters taken from the lesson title: "He Is Not Here." Instruct the students to write their words on the lines provided in their student books. Lists of created words will vary.

MEDIA MISSION (after you meet!)

Finally, leave your students with a media mission. Ask them to find their own example of a Web site, video, or song that relates to this lesson.

Encourage the students to complete this week's "Media Mission" activity. Discuss with the class that Jesus' resurrection should be celebrated in the life of every believer. Invite the students to continue the celebration of Easter Sunday by watching an inspiring praise dance performed to the song "Don't Cry" by gospel recording artist Kirk Franklin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce4dUe5Xw78>).

High School

Teacher's Plans



April 12, 2020

Youth Topic: Unit II. God Promises
a Just Kingdom

He Is Not Here

Lesson

7

Background Scripture: Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15
Print Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

General Lesson:
Resurrection Hope



"Don't be alarmed," [the young man] said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6)

PREPARING TO TEACH

- **Resources Needed:** Bibles, student books, paper, pens or pencils, a timer, sheets of 8x11 lined paper, a microphone, (**optional:** Youth Leadership Resource Kit [materials for this lesson])
- Prior to class, select a word for the day.

LESSON OVERVIEW

People struggle to understand the concept of life after death. They wonder how resurrection from death can offer life that is different from what is experienced before death. First Corinthians 15 and Mark 16 explain that life through the resurrection of Christ is the only hope people have for authentic justice.

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

STATUS UPDATE (check-in)

Before introducing your lesson, take some time to get a quick status update from your students; check in with them to see how their week has been.

Status Update: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? "Think about the most important event of your life. How did that event impact you?"

It's Go Time! (illustration)

Get your students moving and thinking by using the following illustration, a game, or an activity that relates to this week's lesson.

The Investigative Reporter: Separate the class into the following three groups: (1) *Galilee Gazette*—

Matthew 28:1-15; (2) *Nazareth News*—Mark 16:1-11; (3) *Jerusalem Journal*—John 20:11-18. Have each group design a front page, complete with headlines and main facts surrounding the Resurrection—including eyewitness accounts and editorial comments about the meaning of the Resurrection. Allow 5-10 minutes for this activity and additional time for the students to share their news stories.

REFLECT (10 minutes)

Have the students read this week's contemporary story and relate it back to the main points of this week's lesson.

Have the students read the contemporary story and then read and discuss the questions posed at the end. Say, "Sometimes, Christians forget the most important reasons for coming to church. The purpose behind the preaching, the singing, and other parts of the service is to draw people closer to God." Ask the students why they think Monica was so surprised when Corina said she wanted to be saved.

INSPECT (10 minutes)

Inspect the passage for the day. You will want to make sure that you have Bibles or copies of the passage for those who do not have a Bible with them.

Back Up! (background)

Here is some background for today's text that should be used throughout teaching this lesson—in order to set the stage for the passage.

Paul was in Ephesus when he wrote to the Christian church in Corinth to address some problems in the church, and to answer some important questions that new believers had about how to live what they believed. In today's lesson text, the apostle Paul offers a review of the basic elements of Christian faith: Jesus died for our sins; Jesus was buried; and Jesus was permanently raised on the third day. Paul was not writing to unbelievers, but to members of the Corinthian church who were confused about the issue of Jesus' resurrection and whether all believers would experience a bodily resurrection when Jesus returned. Paul went on to remind the Corinthians that Jesus' resurrection was confirmed by the eyewitness accounts of many people, including the apostles, more than five hundred disciples, and himself.

Paul explained that without the Resurrection, the Christian faith has no purpose or impact, and believers have no hope of resurrection, salvation, or eternal life. Paul's point was that faith in a dead man is useless, because if Jesus is dead, then everyone is still lost in their sins. But through Jesus' resurrection, every believer can be made alive (see 1 Corinthians 15:22) through His victory over death.

When Jesus rose from the dead, God empowered Him as the source of the spiritual life that will result in every believer's bodily resurrection. Because our human bodies are subject to sickness, aging, and death, God will give every Christian a changed eternal body that is fit for an eternity in God's presence.

The firstfruits (see Leviticus 23:9-14) were the crop that was the first harvested and the first gathered. In verse 20, Paul compared the Resurrection to firstfruits, in reference to the Jewish custom of consecrating the first bundle of the grain harvest to convince the Corinthian believers that the full harvest—the general resurrection of the dead—would surely follow. The comparison demonstrated that Jesus' resurrection functions as a pledge or a guarantee of the future resurrection of those who belong to Him.

It's Text Time! (Scripture)

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INTERSECT (10 minutes)

Examine the intersections of the passage. What is the passage about? How was it heard at the time? How does it apply now?

After the text in this section of the student book has been read, say, “Every Christian who pleases God can look forward with confident expectation to their own resurrection at the end of the age. Every living soul must face physical death, like everyone else, but Christians are assured of a never-ending future with Christ. By faith, Christians hope for the resurrection of the complete person in a new glorified body. Jesus died for our sins so that we could experience eternal life with Him. Unbelievers may think their lives are too messed up for God to forgive them, but for those who confess and repent, there is no sin God cannot forgive. God is willing to extend His grace to anyone who believes.” Ask the class, “How many of you have at least one unsaved friend, acquaintance, or family member? Why not take the step to encourage them to trust Jesus Christ and accept the hope and salvation He offers them?” Lead a brief discussion over the responses.

Inside Out (interpretation)

Work on the passage from the inside out. Allow time for the students to raise their own questions about the Scripture.

Have the class read the text in this section of the student book (which is similar to this): “Paul was living in another city when he wrote a personal letter to the church in Corinth to answer their questions about the Resurrection and other spiritual issues. Today, we have many resources to strengthen our spiritual understanding (Sunday school lessons, Bibles, commentaries, books, articles, sermon videos, etc.). However, many Christians still have questions about the most basic issues of the Christian faith.” Ask the students what they do when they find themselves struggling to understand a spiritual issue.

There’s an App for That! (application)

Show how this Scripture applies to present day.

As a class, read the text in this section (also found in the student book): “In today’s ‘Reflect’ story, Corina was so moved by the Resurrection Sunday worship service that she decided to give her life to the Lord.

Jesus lived, died, and rose again to save us from sin—this is the point of the Resurrection and the point of our faith. Monica invited her friends to watch her dance, but church is about more than coming to see someone. Monica seemed shocked when Corina said she wanted to be saved. Everything we do at church (serving, singing, dancing, etc.) should have one focus—connecting people with Jesus. Think about it. Why do you come to church?” Lead a brief discussion.

CONNECT (10 minutes)

Help the students think about how this Scripture connects to them personally.

As a class, read the text in this section (also found in the student book): “Justice was the hallmark of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Jesus looked out for those who were socially poor and spiritually oppressed. When Jesus rose from the dead, His resurrection became the power that energizes our spiritual engines to be bold in seeking justice for those who need help. The angel at the tomb instructed the women not to fear. Why? Because Jesus is still alive! God wants every disciple to follow His example of standing on behalf of oppressed people.”

Stepping Out! (challenge)

Give the students this challenge for the week. Emphasize that they can do it!

Encourage the students to ask two people to share the text, tweet, or post indicating what they would write if the Resurrection had just occurred today. The students are to record the responses in the space provided in their student books and share them at the next class session (as time permits).

MEDIA MISSION (after you meet!)

Finally, leave your students with a media mission. Ask them to find their own example of a Web site, video, or song that relates to this lesson.

The students are to visit <https://vimeo.com/21996036> and watch the clip of “Resurrection of Jesus: Easter Video.” The two-minute clip shares what happened to Jesus; but more importantly, it explains three times why Jesus gave His life. Encourage the students to listen to the video and never forget the answer.