

# Lesson 13:

## Jesus Resurrection/Appearances to the Apostles

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Matthew 27:57-28:20; Mark 15:42-16:20; Luke 23:50-24:53; John 19:31-21:25

### MEMORY WORK:

Luke 19:10

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus died for me.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION:

Review last week's lesson.

It was very sad when Jesus was beaten and then hung on the cross. It was very terrible. But it was what He chose to do so that we can go to heaven. This story has a very happy ending! Today we are going to learn what happened to Jesus after He died and why we can be so happy all the time!

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus suffered for six long hours on the cross. After the soldiers were certain that Jesus was dead, two Jewish leaders who believed in Jesus, named Nicodemus and Joseph ["a good and just man" (Luke 23:50) from Arimathea (about 20 miles from Jerusalem)] buried Jesus after Joseph went to the Roman governor Pilate and asked for permission to give Jesus a proper burial.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Romans typically did not allow executed prisoners to have a proper burial; they left bodies to rot on the crosses. So, it would have been somewhat of a surprise for Pilate to agree to Nicodemus and Joseph's request.

2. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus' body and began the burial preparations. Since the Sabbath would have begun at sundown that day, and since Jewish law allowed only the washing of the body on the Sabbath, the two men wrapped Jesus' body and placed it in Joseph's unused tomb (a cave carved into a rock). The women, including Mary Magdalene, who had followed Jesus throughout His ministry (Luke 23:55; Matthew 27:61) and watched His agonizing death, went with them to the tomb so they could return later to finish the preparations (putting spices and perfumes under the linen cloth which covered His body). A huge stone was rolled in front of the tomb opening.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Joseph of Arimathea and the Great Stone](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the contention that Joseph could not have rolled the stone by himself

3. The Jewish leaders persuaded Pilate to send some soldiers to guard the tomb, saying that they did not want Jesus’ disciples to come and steal the body and then claim that He had come back to life. Pilate sent the soldiers and also authorized that a wax seal with his official stamp/seal (like a signature) be put on the large stone, to make sure that the tomb would not be opened.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** A **tomb** like this was normally opened about a year after the burial. After the body had decomposed, the eldest son or closest relative would come back to the tomb to gather the bones and put them in a box. The box would then be put into a slot in the cave wall.

4. It was customary for the closest relatives of the dead person to stay at home for seven days to mourn. The women who went back to the tomb wanted to finish preparing Jesus’ body, but they were concerned about who would roll away the large stone from the tomb (Mark 16:3). (Apparently they did not know that the Roman guards were there or that Pilate had sealed the tomb.) To their surprise, the stone was rolled away because an angel of the Lord had moved it.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the articles “[The Resurrection Narratives](#)” and “[Was the Sun Up, Down, or In Between?](#)” by Kyle Butt, and “[Was Jesus’ Tomb Open or Closed?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to alleged discrepancies surrounding the resurrection narratives in the Gospels.

5. Inside the tomb were the neatly arranged linen cloths that had been around Jesus’ body and on His face. Two men in dazzling clothes (angels) were sitting inside the tomb. They told the women that Jesus was not there and not to be afraid. Jesus had come back to life, just as He had promised!

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the following articles from the Apologetics Press Web site for a study of relevant issues pertaining to the resurrection:

- “[Reasoning About the Resurrection of Christ](#)” (Eric Lyons)
- “[The Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[Have the Bones of Jesus Been Found?](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[The Resurrection of Christ as a Fact of Science](#)” (Kyle Butt)
- “[Discovering the Truth About ‘The Lost Tomb of Jesus’](#)” (Dewayne Bryant)
- “[What Happened to the Body?](#)” (Brad Bromling)

6. Notice the number of times in the four gospel accounts that Jesus (and the angels at the tomb) used phrases like “Do not be afraid” and “fear not.” But the women left the tomb “with fear and great joy” (Matthew 28:8), and they “trembled and were amazed...for they were afraid” (Mark 16:8). The apostles reacted in the same ways when Jesus appeared to them.
7. The angels told the women to tell the apostles, especially Peter, that Jesus had risen from the dead. Peter and John ran to see the tomb for themselves, but “they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead” (John 20:9, ESV). (The guards went to the Jews to explain what had happened and were given “hush money” to keep quiet about Jesus’ resurrection.)

**NOTE:** It is significant that the honor of announcing Jesus’ resurrection was given to the **women** who had ministered to Him and loved Him throughout His ministry. Yet, when it came time to report what happened, the men did not consider them to be reliable sources of information in this case. (Jewish women were not allowed to testify in court because they were generally considered unreliable witnesses—even though the Law of Moses did not endorse such thinking.) It is also significant that the first person to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection was a woman, Mary Magdalene, who had experienced Jesus’ miracles firsthand.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Faith, Evidence, and Credible Testimony](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of testimony and its import in generating belief.

8. The day that Jesus rose from the dead/came back to life was a Sunday, the first day of the week. Jesus also appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus; these two men ran to the apostles to tell them that they had seen Jesus. Many of His disciples did not believe Jesus had come back to life until He appeared to them later that day inside a locked room and showed them where the nails had been in His hands and feet.
9. Thomas was not in the room with the others at that time and refused to believe that Jesus had come back to life. But a week later, the following Sunday, Jesus reappeared in the same locked room to all the apostles, including Thomas. When he saw Jesus’ wounds, Thomas immediately believed, saying “My Lord and my God!”
10. There were five appearances on the first Sunday and at least five others during the next 40 days. On that first Sunday, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the other women, to all the disciples except Thomas, to the two men on the road to Emmaus, and to Peter. The other five appearances were to all 11 apostles, to seven apostles by the Sea of Galilee, to over 500 on a mountain in Galilee, to James in Jerusalem, and to the disciples the last time in Jerusalem before returning to heaven.
11. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, He would have been just another man—a good man who helped a lot of people—but a mere man like every other man who had died. Because He rose from the dead, we know for certain that there is a life after this one on Earth. We know for certain that, if we obey God, we will be raised to live in heaven with Him after we die. We know for certain that for Christians, death is the end of this life but the beginning of another

life, much more wonderful than this one—a life with God that will never end.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Jesus’ Resurrection and the Life of a Christian](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of the significance of the resurrection for Christians.

## RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
- Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. This lesson has two files: 13A (Resurrection) and 13B (appearances to the apostles).

## SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### **“Jesus Loves Me”**

(Author: Anna B. Warner)

Jesus loves me this I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong.  
They are weak but He is strong.

#### CHORUS:

Yes Jesus loves me.  
Yes Jesus loves me.  
Yes Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus love me when I'm good.  
When I do the things I should.  
Jesus loves me when I'm bad,  
Though it make Him very sad.

(CHORUS)

# SUNDAY

## LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Sticker Scene – Do the Oriental Trading sticker scene. This should be in the lesson file. Refer to the classroom NT Binder for a master copy. Save and put in the red file folder so the scenes can be laminated for the student's NT binders.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. (See Review Questions for example questions.)
2. Spend more time talking about heaven. Things to discuss:
  - We will be with God forever.
  - There will be no more pain or sickness.
  - There will be no more tears or sadness.
  - There will be no more death.
  - There will be no more temptation from the devil.

We don't know exactly what heaven will be like because it is a place with spirits, rather than flesh and blood, but it will be perfect and beautiful beyond anything we've ever seen or imagined.

## LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- This would be a good time to do an overall review of the life of Jesus. Refer to review questions from all of quarter 2 and 3 (in lesson file) and use the candyland board. Or get out all the NT flash cards.

# Review Questions

1. Who requested the body of Jesus?
  - a. Joseph of Arimathea
2. What did Nicodemus and Joseph do with the body of Jesus?
  - a. They buried it in Joseph's new tomb.
3. Who wanted Pilate to send guards to the tomb of Jesus?
  - a. Jewish leaders
4. What did the guards do to the tomb?
  - a. They sealed it with wax, and Pilate used a wax seal to make sure no one would open it.
5. Why did the Jewish leaders want it guarded?
  - a. Because they thought the disciples would steal the body and claim that Jesus came back to life
6. What did Mary and the other women find when they went to Jesus' tomb?
  - a. The stone was rolled away, and angels were there to tell them Jesus had risen.
7. What day of the week was Jesus resurrected?
  - a. Sunday
8. When Mary told the disciples Jesus had risen from the dead, who did not believe her?
  - a. Thomas, often referred to as "doubting Thomas"
9. What made Thomas believe Jesus had risen?
  - a. He saw Jesus.
10. How long was Jesus on the Earth before He went back to heaven?
  - a. 40 days
11. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for Christians?
  - a. It is what our faith is based on. Because Jesus arose from the dead, we can go to heaven one day.

