



Week 3: The Resurrected King

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KING OF KINGS

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Bible: Matthew 27:57–28:20; Romans 3:23, 10:9; Acts 2:22–24, I Corinthians 15:12–19

Bottom Line: Jesus conquered death to bring you life

OPENING GAME

Egg & Spoon Relay

Supplies: spoons, cartons of eggs

This game is a classic and tons of fun. Prior to the activity, set up an obstacle course for the relay race. Divide students into small groups. Give each small group a spoon and carton of eggs. One at a time, students will move through the obstacle course while balancing the raw egg on a spoon. If the egg drops, that person must go back and start over. Be sure to have some extra eggs on hand.

If you're playing indoors and want to save the mess, try using hardboiled eggs. If they break, they can easily be swept up with a broom and dustpan. If you want to add a difficult twist, have students balance the egg while holding the spoon with their mouth!

TEACH

Welcome back to Week 3 of our series, *King of Kings*. Today is a special day because we are going to talk about the most important event in the history of the world—Christ's resurrection.

The people believed Jesus had come to save them, and to begin a new kingdom in Jerusalem. They had placed all their hope in Jesus, and now He was dead. If you were one of Jesus' disciples, how do you think you'd be feeling at this time? They were so disappointed and scared that they scattered and abandoned Jesus. As we'll see in a minute, they weren't even around to bury His body.

It had to be a time of sadness and disappointment. Everything they believed just seemed to fade away when Jesus died. There was no hope.

Let's look at the Gospel of Matthew and read what happened after Jesus died on the cross. Matthew 27:57–66 says:

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

When Jesus died, there was no one around but a stranger to give Him a proper burial. Joseph had become a follower of Jesus, but he was not one of the disciples that spent every day with Him. Just 5 days earlier, there were people lining the streets shouting, "Hosanna, Hosanna!" Where were those people now?

Jesus was laid in the tomb and a stone was rolled in front of the entrance. Not only is Jesus dead, but now He is dead and buried. Once the stone was in place, the people really believed it was all over, but the religious leaders were still worried that something would happen.

Even though it seemed to be over, the priests and Pharisees were still scared of what would happen next. They had seen Jesus do miraculous things, so they did not want to take any chances. They placed the guards at the tomb to make sure the disciples did not come to steal the body of Jesus.

Jesus is dead. His body is sealed in the tomb. A Roman soldier guards the tomb. The hope that was placed in Jesus as the One who would save the world is dead and sealed in the tomb with Him. But that was all about to change. Here is what Matthew 28:1–10 says:

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as

snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

When God created the universe, it was on the 1st day of the week that He commanded the light to shine out of the darkness. Christ arose from the grave on the 1st day of week. He was the light of the world coming to shine in darkness.

The most amazing part is that the women were “afraid, yet filled with joy.” They still did not fully understand what was going on, but their hope had been brought back. Just then, Jesus met them. Can you imagine how they felt in that moment? To have seen Jesus being laid in the tomb, and to now see Him standing right in front of you?

Jesus commanded the ladies to go and gather the disciples. Jesus appeared many times throughout the next 40 days, and then He had one last meeting with the 11 remaining disciples. Imagine being one of the 11 going to see Jesus and hearing Him give them their final mission. Listen to Christ’s words from Matthew 28:16–20:

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

A few years back there was a very popular movie called *Braveheart*. It was a rough movie to watch because of all the violence, so many of you probably didn’t see it. The story was a true story about a man from Scotland

named William Wallace. The people of Scotland were slaves to England, but William Wallace wanted his people to experience freedom. He went to war with England, and he won many impressive victories. In the movie, Wallace is captured and is sentenced to be tortured and killed. As they torture him, the soldiers tell him that all he has to do to receive mercy is take back everything he had said and done against England. As he is dying, he takes one last deep breath and gets ready to speak. Everyone thinks he will cry out for mercy, but instead he screams at the top of his lungs "FREEDOM!"

There were two of William's friends standing in the crowd and they were amazed at what had just happened. They had heard his final words, and they, too, were ready to die so that Scotland could have freedom. As the movie ends, it shows those two men on the battlefield charging towards the English soldiers. They were finishing the job. The last words of William Wallace had inspired them to charge against the enemy and win freedom for their people.

The final words of Jesus are even more powerful and inspiring. He isn't just speaking to the 11 disciples; he is speaking to every follower of Christ. He tells us to *make disciples*. We are to take the story of Jesus to everyone we know so that they can experience life; so they can experience FREEDOM!

CLOSING

The resurrection is the most important part of Christianity. If Jesus had died on the cross for sins but not resurrected, it would have only been a nice gesture. People may have remembered Him for His teachings and for His willingness to die, but He would still just be another dead guy.

The announcement of the angel gives us the full power of God's plan for salvation. The angel said, "He is not here. He is risen!" With those words, the world was changed. Jesus is not dead; He is alive. He was a resurrected Savior. **Jesus conquered death to bring you life.**

The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that the punishment for our sin is death. Jesus took our punishment upon himself at the cross. His death paid the price for our sins. Then, His resurrection overcame death. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." If we will accept what Jesus did for us, the Bible says that we will be saved. Our punishment has been taken away, and we are given new life, eternal life. Believing in the resurrection of Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God. **Jesus conquered death to bring you life.**

GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Present the Gospel in a clear, understandable way for students. Include an opportunity for response.

Pray and dismiss to small groups.

SMALL GROUP

Discuss the following questions in small groups:

1. What do you think the disciples were thinking and feeling when Jesus was laid in the tomb?
2. What are some possible reasons for why the disciples did not believe Jesus would rise from the grave?
3. What feelings do you think the women felt when they saw the angel and the empty tomb? What about when they met Jesus?
4. If you met Jesus that morning, what would you have said to Him?
5. Why do you think Jesus' resurrection was not witnessed by anyone? What could God be trying to teach us through this fact? (*We don't have to see to believe*)
6. How does no eyewitness account of Jesus' resurrection affect our faith in Him? Does it take more or less faith?
7. Read Acts 2:22–24. What does this passage teach us about the resurrection?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–19. What are 2 reasons given for why the resurrection is important?
9. What is the significance of the resurrection in your life?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

A LETTER TO A FRIEND

Supplies: stationary, pens

Give each student a sheet of stationary and a pen. Explain to students that they are to imagine that they were actually there at Jesus burial and resurrection. Instruct them to write a letter to a relative or friend that describes the events of His burial and the events of His resurrection. Encourage them to use plenty of adjectives to describe how they were feeling at each moment of that weekend. You might want to write your own letter before small group and share it as an example.

When finished, give students time to share their letters with the small group if they choose to do so. Don't force them to read their letters, as some may not be as confident in their writing or use of descriptive language.