

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st-5th Grade

Easter Study

Jesus is Alive!

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The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will use the story in John 20:19-31 of Jesus appearing to Thomas to show that Jesus is alive and that He promises to bless those who believe without seeing.

Key Verses

John 20:19-31—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - John 20:31

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse (Romans 6:23 for 1st, books of the Old Testament for 2nd, John 3:17 for 3rd-5th).

Ask the kids to name some people who lived a very long time ago (Bible characters or historical figures). Ask if you can call these people on the phone or talk to them. We can’t do that, because they aren’t alive anymore.

What about Jesus? He lived a long time ago too, but we still talk to Him in prayer, sing songs to Him in worship, and listen to Him in His Word. That’s because, as we will see in today’s story, Jesus is alive today!

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Our story today picks up on the third day after Christ was crucified. The past three days had no doubt been the worst three days of the disciples' lives. Jesus, the Master they had spent the past three years following, living with, and learning from, had been captured by the Jewish leaders, falsely accused, and put to death on a cross by the Romans. One of their own had betrayed them. They all had abandoned Jesus in His final hours. Now they were gathered in a room together hiding from the Jewish leaders, fearing that they could be the next ones taken. That night, while everyone but Thomas was there together, Jesus appeared in the middle of the room and said, "Peace be with you." The disciples saw His hands and side and knew it had to be Him and rejoiced that their Lord was alive.

When Thomas returned and heard that this happened, he didn't believe it was true. He said he wouldn't believe unless he saw the marks of the nails on Jesus' hands and touched His hands and side. Eight days later, all the disciples, including Thomas, were gathered together again, and again Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace to you." He then invited Thomas to touch His hands and side. To this, Thomas responded, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus answered, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John finishes the passage by saying that all he wrote in John, he wrote to show that Jesus is the Son of God so we could have eternal life.

LOOK

Imagine how the disciples felt. Their teacher, whom they loved, the one whom they had followed for three years, had died. Not only that, but He had been killed in one of the most awful, graphic, and also public ways. They were far away from home, they were leaderless, and they were afraid that what had just happened to Jesus would also happen to them. So what did they do? They hid in a room and locked the doors.

It was there in a locked room that Jesus would appear to them, showing them that He had conquered death and risen from the grave. I can't imagine the relief that they must have felt seeing Jesus and hearing His voice. They all must have been overjoyed, except for Thomas who wasn't there. Thomas didn't get to see Jesus and hear His voice, so when the other disciples told Thomas the good news, he had a choice to make: would he believe the good news that Jesus had risen from the grave, or would he doubt his friends? Thomas decided that he could not believe unless he saw Jesus for himself.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

When Jesus appeared to the disciples a second time, this time with Thomas in the room, Thomas fell down and worshipped Jesus. He called Him, “My Lord and My God.” He saw, touched, and heard Jesus. There was no more room for doubt, Jesus was really alive.

Jesus’ response to Thomas is really amazing. He tells the disciples that there are going to be people who will not have the same opportunity that they had. There will be folks who are presented with the truth about who Jesus is, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for the sin of the world, and then rose from grave. Jesus told the disciples that those people would be blessed because they would believe even though they didn’t get to touch Jesus body and hear His voice.

Every year at Easter we remind ourselves of the truth of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Some of us may have heard this message hundreds of times, for some this might be the first time we are learning about what Jesus did, but for all of us we are asked to make a choice. Are we going to believe the message of Jesus rising from the dead? Are we going to trust that God’s Word is true and that the disciples recorded these events in the Gospels so that we too could know Him as our Lord and Savior?

Our memory verse tells us “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31) The Gospel of John was written so that you and I might share the blessing of the disciples, that we might know God, believe in Him, and have life everlasting. You can have that life if you believe in your heart that Jesus rose from grave, according to the Scriptures.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Give an opportunity for any students who have never given their lives to Christ to hear and receive the Gospel message.

As a class, memorize John 20:31.

Pray: Thank the Lord for giving us His word so that we might know Him. Praise Him for the opportunity to believe, trust and receive the blessing of eternal life.

Parent Question: What proof did Jesus give Thomas to help him believe?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 20:19-31 by David Guzik

C. The disciples meet the risen Jesus.

1. ([Jhn 20:19](#)) Jesus appears in their midst.

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."

a. We are told of five appearances of Jesus on the resurrection day: to Mary Magdalene, to the women, to two on the road to Emmaus, to Peter and here to ten of the disciples, Thomas being absent. The Gospel of John tells of two of these five appearances.

b. **When the doors were shut ... Jesus came and stood in the midst:** How did Jesus enter the room? "We can scarcely say more than that John wants us to see that the risen Christ was not limited by closed doors. " (Morris) Apparently, resurrection bodies are not subject to the same limitations as our present bodies.

c. **Peace be with you:** After their desertion of Jesus on Friday, the disciples were probably expecting words of rebuke or blame. Instead, Jesus brought a word of **peace**, reconciling **peace**.

2. ([Jhn 20:20-23](#)) The risen Jesus ministers to His disciples (more than the ten are gathered here, according to [Luke 24](#)).

When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. " And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

a. **He showed them His hands and His side:** Jesus gives *assurance* to the disciples about who He is and that He really has risen from the dead.

b. **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you:** Jesus gives His disciples a *mission*, to continue His work on this earth.

c. **Receive the Holy Spirit:** Jesus gives His disciples the *Holy Spirit*, bringing new life and the ability to carry out their mission. Many people see the connection between this breathing on the disciples and when God created man, and breathed the breathe of life in him. This is a work of re-creation, even as God breathed life into the first man. This is where the disciples are born again.

d. **If you forgive the sins of any:** Jesus gives His disciples *authority* to announce forgiveness and to warn of guilt, as authorized by the Holy Spirit.

i. This lays down the duty of the church to proclaim forgiveness to the penitent believer, and the duty of the church to warn the unbeliever that they are in danger of forfeiting the mercy of God.

e. Jesus wants to continue this fourfold ministry of giving *assurance*, a *mission*, the *Holy Spirit* and *authority* to believers today.

3. ([Jhn 20:24-29](#)) Jesus convinces the previously absent disciple, the skeptic Thomas.

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

a. **Unless I see ... I will not believe:** Thomas is not a doubter, but an unbeliever who will not accept the valid testimony of others.

b. **Do not be unbelieving, but believing:** Jesus explicitly repeats Thomas' demands back to him. This must have been very impressive to Thomas, and very convincing.

i. **Do not be unbelieving, but believing:** Jesus also plainly commands him to cease his unbelief and to start believing

c. **My Lord and my God:** Both **Lord** and **God** were titles of deity, and Thomas boldly and explicitly assigns these titles to Jesus. *Jesus accepts these titles*, and did not tell Thomas, "Don't call Me that."

d. **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed:** There is a special promise blessing given to those who believe. The faith of Thomas is the climax of the book: Jesus has triumphed over sickness, sin, evil men, death and sorrow; now He conquers unbelief.

e. Thomas is a good example in many ways. He refused to say he understood when he didn't, he refused to pretend to believe when he didn't. And when he did understand and believe, he went all the way and properly called Jesus **Lord** and **God**.

4. ([Jhn 20:30-31](#)) Summary statement of the book.

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

a. **Jesus did many other signs:** John admits that he presents an incomplete collection, written for a purpose.

b. One collects everything possible about a dead prophet; it is all one has of him. But one only tells enough of a living person to introduce one's hearers to him. John trusts that a personal relationship with Jesus will reveal more to the believer.