

Answers Bible Curriculum

#1

# Easter Lesson



**KJV**

**Answers Bible Curriculum** was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God's Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed Answers Bible Curriculum. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

- We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.
- God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.
- The Bible presents true history.
- We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.
- God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.

- We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.
- We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.

Answers Bible Curriculum is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to complete it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same scriptures each week

***Order online at [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com)***

Answers Bible Curriculum

Pre-K-Grade 1 Teacher • KJV

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# Jesus Rose from the Dead

*Jesus conquered death when he rose from the grave.*

## *Lesson Focus*

Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb, but on the third day he rose from the dead! He appeared to Mary, his disciples, and other followers to show he had risen. Jesus' death and resurrection conquered sin and death so we can have forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life in heaven with God.

## *Key Passages*

Matthew 27:65–66; John 20:19

## *Memory Verse*

**John 11:25** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

# Lesson Preparation



## Come On In

Choose a Come On In activity and gather necessary items.

- ☐ Popcorn Memory Verse Game\*
- ☐ Easter Clues



## Lesson Time

Print one of each of the following:

- ☐ Easter 1A Lesson Poster
- ☐ Easter 1B Lesson Poster
- ☐ Tomb Illustration
- ☐ Resurrection Role Play Script

You will need the following items:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Stuffed animal for Prayer Time
- ☐ Props and costumes for the Resurrection Role Play (see script for details)



## Review Game—Basket Toss

See the Lesson Review Game section for instructions.

Print the Review Questions.

Gather the following items:

- ☐ balls, balloons or beanbags
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Three large baskets, laundry baskets, or boxes
- ☐ Small pieces of paper

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes.

**Suggestions with an asterisk (\*) are specifically recommended for Pre-K.**



## Song Time

Practice this song using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of the lesson.

- ☐ “Tell the Gospel News”



## Go to Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the resurrection of Jesus! Thank you for your power over life and death. May my students see that the resurrection is essential to our faith in Jesus, your promises, and your Word. Help them understand how much you love them. May they accept Jesus' sacrifice for their sin and trust in him to receive the gift of eternal life in heaven.

# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The previous Easter lesson covered Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, his last supper with the disciples, his betrayal by Judas, and his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus' death on the cross paid the punishment for the sins of mankind—past, present, and future. He also fulfilled numerous Old Testament prophecies about his sacrificial death (Isaiah 53), the soldiers casting lots for his clothing (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35), his bones not being broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36), and the spear that pierced his side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34–37). Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body from Pilate, who was surprised that Jesus was already dead. Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linens and placed it in his tomb near the place of the crucifixion. The women who followed Jesus and witnessed the crucifixion saw where Joseph laid the body and covered the entrance with a stone (Mark 15:46–47). But the chief priests weren't satisfied that the tomb was secure. They went to Pilate with concerns that Jesus' disciples would steal his body and claim that Jesus had risen from the dead on the third day as he'd prophesied. Pilate agreed to station guards at the tomb, and they sealed the stone (Matthew 27:62–66).

Early on Sunday morning, the women returned to the tomb with spices. They found an angel sitting on the stone, which was rolled away, and the guards incapacitated from fear. The angel announced that Jesus had risen! He was alive! The angel instructed

the women to go tell the disciples. As they hurried away in fear and with joy, Jesus appeared to them and comforted them (Matthew 28:1–10).

Some guards who were at the tomb went to the chief priests and reported what happened. The Jewish leaders did not want the news of the empty tomb to spread, so they paid the guards to say that Jesus' disciples came and took the body while they slept. This lie was spread among the Jews (Matthew 28:11–15).

The Gospels record how the disciples didn't believe the news the women shared that Jesus was alive. But Peter and John ran to the tomb and saw the linens left there (John 20:1–10). In addition to appearing to the women (Matthew 28:8–10) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18), Jesus appeared to his disciples in a locked room (John 20:19–20), again to his disciples with Thomas (John 20:24–29), to two followers on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35), to the disciples in Galilee (John 21), and to numerous followers (1 Corinthians 15:1–8). These witnesses who saw Jesus were commanded to proclaim the good news of who Jesus is (the Messiah and Son of God) and the forgiveness of sin offered through Jesus' death and resurrection (Luke 24:45–53; John 20:30–31). The book of Acts records how they obeyed Christ's command and boldly proclaimed the gospel despite persecution. The gospel changed the disciples from frightened men to bold witnesses willing to give their lives to share the message of Christ. May God give us the same boldness to share the message of hope and salvation found only through Jesus Christ.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Even secular historians cannot deny the evidence of Jesus' death by crucifixion, the empty tomb, and the disciples' eyewitness accounts of seeing the resurrected Jesus. The later conversions of Paul and Jesus' brother James were also based on their seeing the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7–8). The Bible is our most reliable source because it is inspired by God who cannot lie. Over 17 ancient documents besides the Bible, written within 100 years of the events, speak of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In spite of the evidence, many skeptics have proposed theories to discredit these events. The heart

issue behind these attacks is that people don't want to be responsible to a holy God for their sins. If Jesus is the Son of God as he claimed, then he will return to judge the world as King. There is no alternative way to God from other religions; Jesus is the only way. Adam's sin brought death into the world. Jesus had to become a descendant of Adam, die physically, and rise to conquer death. And that is what the Bible says he did.

Here are a few theories proposed by some to deny the death and resurrection of Jesus:

**Mistaken Identity:** It wasn't Jesus who died on the cross; it was a disciple who was supernaturally

transformed to look like Jesus and crucified in his place (e.g., Judas). The Quran proposes that the disciple on the cross just looked like Jesus; Jesus was taken up to heaven by Allah. However, this theory requires deceit on the part of Allah, which means he is untrustworthy. It also cannot explain the nail marks people saw on the risen Jesus.

**Legend Theory:** The beliefs about Jesus' resurrection were legends that developed over decades by Christians who spread across the Roman Empire. This theory accepts that Jesus died but rejects the evidence of the empty tomb and the appearances of Jesus after his resurrection. One problem with this theory is that if Christians were inventing legends to make the account more acceptable or reputable, why would they record things like Jesus first appearing to women, including Mary Magdalene, when women's testimonies were not considered valid during that time? Also, there are no signs of legendary development in the biblical accounts of the resurrection; rather, the writers recorded details based on their perspective, audience, and purpose.

**Vision Theories:** The people who saw the post-resurrected Jesus (women, disciples) were experiencing visions or hallucinations of Jesus due to their grief. However, this would be a great miracle since that many people don't mass hallucinate (i.e., the 500 witnesses mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15). This theory, although popular today, also cannot account for the conversions of skeptics like Paul and James, who were not distraught like the women or disciples. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, persecuting Christians at the time of his conversion.

**Swoon Theory:** Jesus fell into a coma-like state on the cross and later revived in the tomb. This theory was popular in the early 1800s, but when you understand the brutality of crucifixion, to think someone could survive it is absurd. The Bible records the spear through Jesus' side and the confirmation of Jesus' death from the centurion and Pilate. Jesus would have had to unwrap in the tomb, roll back the stone, and escape past the guards, and then convince the disciples that he was the resurrected Lord of glory. Jesus couldn't have said he conquered death if he were clinging to life. Plus, his followers would not have risked their lives for a fraud.

**Stolen Body Theories:** Jesus' body was moved or stolen prior to Sunday morning. These theories have many problems. If Jesus' enemies stole the body, why didn't they simply produce it to prove he was dead? For the disciples to have stolen the body, they would have had to get past the guards, move the stone, and escape with the body. This is unlikely since the disciples were denying and fleeing from Jesus, not rushing toward danger to rescue him. They were huddled behind locked doors, hiding from the Jews when Jesus appeared to them. Jesus' appearances following the resurrection are also unaccounted for in these theories. Another problem is that if the guards were sleeping, how did they see who stole the body?

A closer look at these theories reveals that they are sad attempts to deny the truth of Scripture. Those who don't want to believe will come up with far-fetched attempts to avoid the one way to salvation and reconciliation with God—the Savior, Jesus.





## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Poster, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Today let's pray and tell God how much we love him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass the stuffed animal around the circle, giving all the students a turn to pray when the stuffed animal is passed to them.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll start our lesson.

**K-1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 8 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## K-1st Lesson

### Introduction

- ? *Refer to the Easter 1B Lesson Poster. Today is Easter Sunday! You might have heard people call it Resurrection Day. What important event do we remember today? It's something that happened after Jesus died. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead.*

Easter is such an exciting day because we remember Jesus' resurrection. That's a big word that means Jesus rose from the dead! Say that word with me: resurrection. The resurrection was a very important event that really happened, and the Bible tells us all about it. But first, let's see how much we can remember about what happened when Jesus died.

- ? *Refer to the Easter 1A Lesson Poster. When Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem, what was he riding on? A donkey.*

The people welcomed Jesus and threw their cloaks and tree branches on the road for Jesus to ride over. That was how they greeted kings. The people were excited because they'd heard about the amazing miracles Jesus had done. And many of them thought that their king would come and fight the Romans so they could be free again.

- If you did the Easter Clues Come On In activity, refer to the list of clues and encourage the students to listen for them during the lesson.

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- ? But what did Jesus come to save the people from? The Romans or their sins? *Their sins.*

Our sins are our biggest problem because sin separates us from God. Jesus chose to be our Savior and save us by taking our punishment for our sins when he died on the cross.

When Jesus died, it seemed like it was the end—but it wasn't! Let's find out what happened next.

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## ***The Tomb***

After Jesus died, a rich man named Joseph went to Pilate, the Roman governor, and asked if he could take the body of Jesus and give him a proper burial. Pilate agreed, and Joseph took the body of Jesus down from the cross. He wrapped Jesus' body in linens, which were strips of cloth.

*Show the Tomb Illustration.* Then Joseph laid Jesus in his own tomb in a garden. This tomb was like a cave carved from stone. It wasn't like the graves we dig in the ground today. The tomb of a wealthy man like Joseph usually had an open doorway with some steps leading into one or more rooms where they laid the bodies. But this was a new tomb; no body had been placed in it until Joseph put Jesus in there.

Jesus' mother and some other women went with Joseph to see where he laid Jesus' body. The Sabbath day was about to begin at sunset, so they would have to wait until the morning after the Sabbath to come back and take care of the body. Joseph rolled a huge stone in front of the entrance of the tomb then went home.

### **Matthew 27:65–66**

Even though Jesus was dead, the Jewish leaders who hated him decided to do something more. Listen so you can tell me what they did. I'm going to read from Matthew chapter 27 in the New Testament. *Read Matthew 27:65–66.*

These men remembered that Jesus had said that he would rise on the third day. They didn't believe that would happen, but they didn't want Jesus' disciples to take his body and tell everyone that he had come back to life. So they went to Pilate and asked him to make sure that didn't happen.

- ? What did Pilate tell them they could have? *A watch, or guard.*

Pilate gave them some guards to stand watch at the sepulchre, another word for tomb. Then they sealed the stone so they could tell if anyone tried to move it. They thought there was no way Jesus was coming back.



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## The Resurrection

► Have the Resurrection Role Play Script printed and props ready.

- ? Did Jesus come back? Raise your hand if you think he came back and rose from the dead. *Show of hands.*

Yes! Jesus did rise from the dead. All four Gospels in the Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell us what happened that Sunday morning at Jesus' resurrection. Let's act it out now.

*Follow the Resurrection Role Play Script then continue with the lesson.*

This was amazing. Jesus had risen from the dead!

- ? Why do you think the angel rolled the stone away from the door?

*Allow discussion.*

*Refer to the Easter 1B Lesson Poster.* Jesus didn't need any help to get out of the tomb. He is God. A stone wasn't going to keep him inside. The angel rolled the stone out of the way so people could see that the tomb was empty. Jesus was already gone!

- ? Who told the women the good news? *The angel.*
- ? What happened to the guards when they felt the earthquake and saw the angel? *They fell over with fear or fainted.*
- ? What did the angel tell the women to do? *Go tell the others, the disciples, the news.*
- ? Who talked to the women as they left the tomb? *Jesus.*

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## The Witnesses

Jesus wanted his followers to know and see that he really was alive again, so he came to see them. John tells us what he did.

### John 20:19

I'm going to read from John chapter 20. This is pretty amazing. *Read the verse.*

- ? What day was this? *First day of the week.*
- ? The first day of the week is Sunday. This happened on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. Most of the disciples were together. What did the verse say about the doors to the place they were in? *The doors were shut. We know they were also locked.*
- ? Why were they hiding in a room with the doors locked? *They were afraid.*
- They were afraid that the Jewish leaders would send guards to arrest them because they had followed Jesus.
- ? Suddenly, who appeared in the room? *Jesus.*

Yes! Jesus just appeared and stood in the room with them—*poof!* He didn't even have to open the door!

- ? How would you feel if Jesus suddenly stood right here in front of us?

*Allow discussion.*

- ? That must have scared the disciples, because what did Jesus say? "*Peace be unto you.*"

Jesus spoke to them and showed them the marks in his hands from the nails on the cross. And the disciples believed it was really Jesus—he had risen from the dead!

Jesus appeared to other followers besides the women and his disciples. He showed himself to many other people—over 500 people saw Jesus after he had died and risen.

Soon it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. He reminded his disciples that they were witnesses of his death and resurrection. They saw him die, and they saw the nail marks in his hands when he came back to life. Now it would be their job to tell everyone all that had happened.

After Jesus was taken back up into heaven, his disciples weren't sad; they were filled with joy! They immediately began sharing the good news with others. They were no longer afraid. They knew Jesus was alive and that their sins were forgiven. No matter what happened, they had Jesus' promise of heaven when they died.

And guess what! We have that same promise. Because Jesus died and paid for our sins then came alive again, everyone who believes and puts their trust in him can have their sins forgiven and live forever with him. That's why we can say, "Happy Resurrection Day!"

Continue with the Review Game on page 11.

- If you did the Easter Clues Come On In activity, refer to the list of clues and encourage the students to listen for them during the lesson.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

*Refer to the Easter 1B Lesson Poster.* Today is Easter Sunday! You might have heard people call it Resurrection Day. Easter is such an exciting day because we remember Jesus' resurrection. That's a big word that means Jesus rose from the dead! Say that word with me: resurrection.

The resurrection was a very important event that really happened, and the Bible tells us all about it. But first, let's see how much we can remember about what happened when Jesus died.

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The people welcomed Jesus like a king and threw their cloaks and tree branches on the road for Jesus to ride over. The people were excited because they'd heard about the amazing things Jesus had done. And many of them thought that he would come and fight the Romans so they could be free again.

- ? But what did Jesus come to save the people from? The Romans or their sins? *Their sins.*

Our sins are our biggest problem because sin keeps us apart from God. Jesus chose to save us by taking the punishment for our sins when he died on the cross.

When Jesus died, it seemed like it was the end—but it wasn't! Let's find out what happened next.

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Even though Jesus was dead, the Jewish leaders who hated him decided to do something more. They remembered that Jesus had said he would rise three days later. They didn't believe that would happen, but they didn't want Jesus' disciples to take his body and tell everyone he had come back to life. So they went to the Roman governor and asked him to make sure that didn't happen. He gave them some guards to stand watch at the tomb. Then they sealed the stone so they could tell if anyone tried to move it. They thought there was no way Jesus was coming back.

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**This was amazing. Jesus had really risen from the dead!**

- ? Why do you think the angel rolled the stone away from the door? *Allow discussion.*

*Refer to the Easter 1B Lesson Poster.* Jesus didn't need any help getting out of the tomb. He is God. A stone wasn't going to keep him inside. The angel rolled the stone out of the way so people could see that the tomb was empty. Jesus was already gone!

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- ? Who talked to the women as they left the tomb? *Jesus.*

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## ***The Witnesses***

Jesus wanted his followers to know and see that he really was alive again. They didn't need to be sad or afraid anymore. So he came to see them. John tells us what he did.

### **John 20:19**

I'm going to read from John chapter 20. This is pretty amazing! *Read the verse.*

- ? This happened on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. Most of the disciples were together. What did the verse say about the doors to the place they were in? *The doors were shut. We know they were also locked.*

They had locked the doors because they were afraid that they would be arrested since they had followed Jesus.

- ? Suddenly, who appeared in the room? *Jesus.*

Yes! Jesus just appeared and stood in the room with them—*poof!* He didn't even have to open the door!

- ? How would you feel if Jesus suddenly stood right here in front of us? *Allow discussion.*

- ? That must have scared the disciples because what did Jesus say? *"Peace be unto you."*

Jesus spoke to them and showed them the marks in his hands from the nails on the cross. And the disciples believed it was really Jesus—he had risen from the dead!

Jesus appeared to other followers besides the women and his disciples. He showed himself to many other people—over 500 people saw Jesus after he had died and risen.

Jesus reminded his disciples that they were witnesses of his death and resurrection. They saw him die, and they saw the nail marks in his hands when he came back to life. Now it would be their job to tell everyone all that had happened.

Soon Jesus was taken back up into heaven. But his disciples weren't sad; they were filled with joy! They immediately began sharing the good news with others. They were no longer afraid. They knew Jesus was alive and that their sins were forgiven. No matter what happened, they had Jesus' promise of heaven when they died.

And guess what! We have that same promise. Because Jesus died and paid for our sins then came alive again, everyone who believes and puts their trust in him can have their sins forgiven and live forever with him. That's why we can say, "Happy Resurrection Day!"

Continue with the Review Game below.



## Review Game—Basket Toss

*We encourage you to play the following review game. Students give the correct answer and toss the ball, balloon or bean bag to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.*

### Materials

*Review Questions*

*Ball, balloon or beanbags*

*Three large baskets, laundry baskets, or boxes*

*Masking tape*

*Small pieces of paper*

### Instructions

*Print one copy of the Review Questions. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Set the three baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Use small pieces of paper to label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the basket farthest away is the highest score.*

*Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team*

a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss **two balls, balloons** or beanbags into two of the baskets then go to the end of the line. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. If the **ball** miss, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Continue asking questions, repeating them if necessary until all students have had a turn to toss.



## Song Time

*Practice the following song using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson. You may want to add stomping, clapping, musical instruments, or make up hand motions.*

### Tell the Gospel News

**Let's sing about how Jesus died for sinners and rose again!** *Review the song and sing it a few times.*

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer Time

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God for his great power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- Thank God for the salvation he offers to everyone through Jesus, the risen Savior.



# Song Sheet

## ***Tell the Gospel News***

*(To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)*

Oh, tell the gospel news.

*(The farmer in the dell,)*

Oh, tell the gospel news:

*(The farmer in the dell,)*

Jesus . . . he is alive!

*(Hi-ho the derry-o!)*

Oh, tell the gospel news.

*(The farmer in the dell.)*

Christ gave his life for us.

He died upon the cross,

So he could conquer sin and death,

And we can be with God!

We are free from sin.

We are free from death.

If we put our hope and trust—

Our hope and trust in him!