



Because Jesus was raised, we too will be raised.

Lesson Summary

Over the last few weeks, we learned that before Jesus can rule, He must suffer and die as the Passover Lamb in order to deliver His people. Jesus knew this as he rode into Jerusalem - that He was riding to His death, knowing ultimately that He would one day rule. Because of this, we see Him suffer and die on the cross, submitting perfectly to the Father's plan and fulfilling what the Old Testament said about the Messiah's suffering. Yet, it was a good day because since He suffered in this way, we can be sure that He will **RULE**, just as the Scriptures said! But how can a dead man rule? God must raise Him from the dead! That is what the scriptures anticipated and it is exactly what happened to Jesus! On the third day after Jesus was buried, the **LORD** raised Him from the dead so that He stood up and walked right out of the tomb. He appeared to Mary Magdalene and His disciples so that they could see for sure that He is the risen Christ and go and tell the world what they saw and heard while they were with Jesus. Today, we hear this testimony through one of His disciples, John. John has demonstrated that Jesus is the risen Christ promised in the Old Testament so that we will believe and as a result -- have eternal life. So all who believe the testimony of the apostles that Jesus is the Christ will be raised from the dead in the same way Jesus was. Therefore, we can rejoice and have no fear of death. Because Jesus was raised, we too will be raised!

Story of the Bible Chart

Today, we continue looking at **The Appearance of Messiah**. Last week we saw Jesus' ministry as the ultimate Passover Lamb as He suffers innocently for a guilty people. Today, we will see Him raise from the dead. One day, He will return to rule forever!

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



or



THIS WEEK

LAST WEEK



Crucifixion
Easter 2



Resurrection
Easter 3

APPEARANCE OF MESSIAH



LESSON INTRO

Recap

The last two weeks focused on how the events of Jesus' final week demonstrate that He is the Messiah/the true Image-Bearer, fulfilling prophecies in the Old Testament.

- Jesus, the King riding on a donkey - Zech 9:9
- Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD - Psalm 118
- Jesus' was betrayed by Judas - Zech 11:12-13
- Jesus was tortured and mocked - Psalm 22:11-16; Isaiah 50:6-7
- Jesus was crucified - Psalm 22:16-17; Isaiah 53

Emphasis

Jesus has already fulfilled the Scriptures speaking of His suffering and death, but the prophecies about His rule over His Kingdom remain unfulfilled. Yet, because of His fulfillment of the suffering, we know that He will fulfill the rest, but how? Let's see what happens next!

Lesson Outline

Because Jesus was raised, we too will be raised.

LESSON OUTLINE
Easter 3 | John 20



The Empty Tomb

- **How?** - He must raise from the dead!
- **Jesus' Death** - Last week, we read that Jesus died on the cross and was placed in the tomb
- **Discovery of the Empty Tomb** - But when Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb, it was empty and Jesus was gone...
- **The Resurrected Christ** - However, Jesus appeared to her and guess what?! He was alive!!
- **Appearance to the Disciples** - And then He appeared to His disciples alive, allowing them to witness His resurrection.
- **Significance** - Jesus died as the Passover Lamb, but He is now alive... Now we know for sure that He will one day rule His Kingdom.

John's Testimony

- **John's Purpose for Writing:** Right before concluding his gospel account, John writes: READ John 20:30-31
- **The Eyewitnesses:** Jesus, through His words and works, proved Himself to be the Messiah, the true Image-Bearer, in the sight of the disciples. Having risen from the dead, witnessed by them, Jesus is now about to depart from the Earth temporarily to return to the Father in heaven. The eyewitness account of His words and works will spread through the disciples/apostles, the special men who were present with Jesus.
- **The Eyewitness Account:** For the past three weeks, we've delved into the eyewitness account of these events from one who was there - the apostle John. He wrote these things so that we might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and through this belief, have eternal life.

The Promise of Eternal Life

- **Defining Eternal Life:** Eternal life... What is it? The answer lies in the story of Jesus. IN THE SAME WAY that Jesus was raised from the dead, so will all who believe Jesus is the Christ be raised from the dead... Just as Jesus stood up and walked out of His physical tomb, so will we stand up and walk out of our graves to walk on the Earth for eternity under Christ's rule.
- **Why Celebrate Easter?:** This is why we celebrate Easter! We rejoice in Jesus being the "first fruits" of resurrection because all believers will soon follow. We hold onto the hope that death's curse is only temporary. One day, the souls of all who have passed before His return will reunite with our bodies, and the suffering of this life will pale in comparison to the glory of eternal life.

Our Response and Rejoicing

- **Resurrection of the Saints:** Because Jesus was raised and the Apostles bore witness, we can be certain of our own resurrection.
- **No Fear of Death/Suffering:** So today, if we believe John's testimony that Jesus is the resurrected Messiah, we have nothing to fear. The world cannot take away our future resurrection, just as it couldn't hinder God from raising Jesus. Suffering is temporary, but life is eternal for His sheep.
- **Rejoice!** So, let's rejoice today - and every day! And let us encourage one another in anticipation of His return. And let's always remember to keep our eyes fixed on heaven, awaiting His glorious arrival.



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

Ages 3-5

1. **Did Jesus die on the cross?**
Yes
2. **Is Jesus still dead and in the grave?**
No
3. **Why not?**
God raised Him up from the dead and Jesus is alive!
4. **How long will Jesus be alive now that He died and rose again?**
Forever
5. **What will one day happen to all those who are on God's Team and believe in Jesus?**
God will raise us up from the dead too!
6. **How long will we be alive after we die and God raises us up from the dead?**
Forever

Grades 1-6

1. **What happened to Jesus on Good Friday?**
He was hung on a cross and died.
2. **What happened to Jesus's body after He died on the cross?**
Jesus's body was placed inside a cave used as a grave and a stone was rolled over the opening.
3. **What did Jesus's friend Mary find when she came to Jesus's tomb or grave on Easter Sunday?**
The stone was rolled away from the opening of the cave and Jesus's body was not inside.
4. **How did Mary know that the man who she asked to help her find Jesus's body was actually Jesus, alive from the dead?**
Jesus called Mary by her name and she recognized His voice.
5. **Jesus died and rose from the dead and will never die again but will live forever. What do we call this?**
Eternal life
6. **What is another word for Jesus being raised from the dead?**
Bodily resurrection
7. **In the story, who else will be resurrected after they die and have eternal life?** Everyone on God's Team who believe Jesus is the Promised One who has come to remove the curses placed on creation, especially the curse of death.
8. **When will God resurrect the bodies of all on God's Team and reunite their souls and bodies to live forever with Jesus?**
When Jesus returns to earth to rule as King.
9. **Where will believers live for eternity in their newly resurrected bodies?**
Believers will not spend eternity up in heaven; rather, they will live on a physical new Earth in physical resurrection bodies where Jesus will rule as King forever.