



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#E2 – The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Matthew 26, 27, 28

PICTURES NEEDED

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|------|---------------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| E2-1 | Passover meal with Disciples | E2-5 | Jesus on the cross |
| E2-2 | Praying in Garden of Gethsemane | E2-6 | Joseph putting Jesus in tomb |
| E2-3 | Jesus before the high priest | E2-7 | Women at the tomb |
| E2-4 | Pilate addressing the crowd | | |

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
Review questions from the previous Gnosis lesson.
- **The Big Question Review:** How did Jesus fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Zechariah 9:9 Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey.
"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

LESSON CONTENT

This is Easter Sunday. Why is Easter the most important Christian celebration? Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, which is the basis for our faith in Jesus.

In the lesson last Sunday, we saw that Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. Why did he do that? Jesus rode into the city on a donkey to fulfill Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah.

What were the people doing as he came into the city? The people were waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" They treated Jesus like he was a king.

During the time between Palm Sunday and Jesus' resurrection, a lot happened. He spent the week both teaching and healing people. Then on Thursday he had his disciples gather together to celebrate an important Jewish holiday, the Passover.

What is the Passover? The Passover celebrates God leading his people Israel out of slavery in Egypt. It is a reminder that the death angel passed over the homes of the Israelites because their doorframes were painted with the blood of a perfect lamb that had been sacrificed for their protection.

The Passover is also an illustration of how Jesus delivers us from slavery to our sin. The last day of his life Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. What do we refer to that time they had together celebrating the Passover? We refer to this as the Last Supper as it was the last time they ate together. During the Last Supper he told them things that were going to happen. Afterwards they went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and it was there that Jesus was arrested. We are going to read different Scriptures about things that happened and what Jesus said.

1. Matthew 26:20 (picture E2-1)

²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

What did Jesus say would happen as they were eating the Passover together? Jesus told the disciples that one of them was going to betray him.

Which disciple betrayed him? Judas was the one who betrayed Jesus. His heart wasn't right and he didn't understand who Jesus was and what he came to do.

2. Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

What did Jesus do with the Passover bread and wine? While they were eating the Passover Jesus took the bread, gave it to them and told them that it was his body. He then took the cup of wine and said that it was his blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin. In doing this Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion.

3. Matthew 26:31-32

³¹Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³²But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

What did he warn the disciples of while they were eating? He warned them that many of his followers would fall away that night on account of him.

What did he specifically tell Peter? He told Peter that Peter would deny him three times that night before the rooster crowed in the early morning hours.

4. Matthew 26:36-38 (picture E2-2)

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Where did they go after the supper? After they ate Jesus took the disciples to a garden called Gethsemane.

5. Matthew 26:39

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

What was Jesus' prayer? That the Father would take the cup of suffering from him if it were possible but Jesus asked that God's will be done, not his own.

What did the contents of that prayer show? Jesus knew what he was going to go through would be awful and personally, he didn't want to do it. However, he wanted to do what he was sent to do which was fulfill God's will and save sinners.

While Jesus was in the garden soldiers came and arrested him. Then Jesus was put on trial where people came to say things about him that weren't true. Finally, he was taken before Pilate the governor.

6. Matthew 26:63-68 (picture E2-3)

⁶²Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

What did Jesus say about himself? That he was the Savior (Christ), the Son of God.

How did the leaders respond to that? They said he was speaking blasphemy which means he spoke irreverently about God. They thought he was saying something about God that wasn't true and showed a lack of reverence for who God is.

7. Matthew 27:15-26 (picture E2-4)

Jesus was taken before the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate didn't want to punish Jesus because he didn't think Jesus had done anything wrong. So he decided to ask the people what he should do with Jesus.

¹⁵Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

²²"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

What happened when Pilate presented Jesus to the people? Some of the people who didn't like Jesus started stirring up the crowd and got them to shout, "Crucify him, crucify him."

What had the people been saying at the beginning of the week? "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." A huge change of heart occurred within a week.

Because Pilate saw that the crowd was all worked up and getting out of control he turned Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and crucified.

The soldiers made a man named Simon carry Jesus' cross to a place called Golgotha. There they nailed Jesus to the cross and hung him between two criminals to die an awful, agonizing death.

The physical pain of his death can't even be compared to the spiritual pain of the people's rejection of him as Lord and Savior. He gave his life for the forgiveness of the very people who were putting him to death. He even asked the Father to forgive them as he hung on the cross.

8. Matthew 27:50-54 (picture E2-5)

⁵⁰And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵²The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

What happened at the moment Jesus died? At the moment that Jesus died the earth shook, it grew very dark, the curtain of the Jewish temple was torn into two pieces, and dead people were raised to life. The centurion and the other soldiers who were guarding Jesus got very frightened and thought that Jesus must really be the Son of God.

9. Matthew 27:57-60 (picture E2-6)

⁵⁷As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and 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.

What happened after Jesus died? After Jesus died one of his followers, Joseph of Arimathea, took his body and put it in a tomb where a huge rock was rolled across the opening. Because the Jewish Sabbath (day of rest) was about to begin his friends couldn't prepare his body. They had to leave him there and couldn't go back until the Sabbath rest was over.

10. Matthew 28:1-4 (picture E2-7)

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

What happened after the Sabbath was over on the first day of the week? Early on the first day of the week after the Sabbath, the women who were Jesus' friends

went back to the tomb to properly prepare his body. Instead of finding the tomb like they left it, they found that the stone had been rolled away. To their surprise an angel was there and Jesus' body was not around.

11. Matthew 28:5-7

5The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7Then 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."

What did the angel say to the women? The angel told Mary Magdalene and the other Mary that Jesus had risen from the dead just as he had said he would and that they were to go and tell the disciples. As the women were hurrying away from the tomb Jesus appeared to them.

12. Matthew 28:8-10

8So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

What did Jesus say to the women?

Even though Jesus had told them that he would rise from the dead the disciples had not understood what he meant. It wasn't until Jesus appeared to them that their minds were opened to understand fully what it was all about.

What did Jesus rising from the dead mean for the disciples and everyone else?

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead shows that he is the Son of the living God, overcame death, and is able to forgive sin. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead he wouldn't be God and we would still be left without a sacrifice for our sin.

Why is the resurrection of Christ critical to our faith? Without the resurrection we have no hope because Jesus wouldn't be God as he said he is. The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:13-14, *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

Many people try to deny the resurrection of Jesus and call it a myth, by doing so they believe they can discredit Christianity. The disciples testified to the truth of what happened. They believed Jesus because they saw him alive after his death. They wrote down what they saw and heard. We can believe them because of the faithfulness of their testimony. They were willing to die for what they knew to be true. This Easter Sunday you, too, should be filled with joy because Jesus your Savior has risen from the dead and opened the way to life for you.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What happened when Jesus died? Why couldn't the women find him in the tomb? How did the disciples know that Jesus rose from the dead?
- **Thought Questions:** Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important to our faith? What would be the result if the resurrection weren't really true? How do we know the resurrection is true?
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus that his resurrection shows that he is the Son of God and able to forgive sin. Thank him that he demonstrated the truth of the resurrection by appearing to so many people after his death. Thank him that you know he is alive by the changes that he makes in your life and in the lives of others who believe in him.
- **The Big Question: How important is the resurrection of Jesus to our faith?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 Our faith depends on the resurrection of Jesus.

¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And (if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith).

Question: Why is our faith useless if Jesus didn't rise from the dead? How do we know he rose from the dead?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: At Easter we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus which is critical to the Christian faith.

1. Jesus was sentenced to death because Pilate wanted to please the crowd. In his death Jesus took on the sins of all people as a perfect sacrifice.
2. After Jesus died he was laid in a tomb but he didn't stay there. He rose from the dead and appeared to his followers.
3. The resurrection of Jesus proves he is God with the power to forgive sin.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- **Activity Page:** Easter Crossword

Instructions: Fill in on the crossword puzzle the names of people and places associated with Jesus' death and resurrection.

Pilate – The governor who sent Jesus to be crucified.

Judas – The disciple who betrayed Jesus.

Gethsemane – The garden where Jesus went to pray.

Simon – The man who carried Jesus' cross.

Golgotha – The place where Jesus was crucified.

Centurion – A soldier who was guarding Jesus.

Joseph – The man from Arimathea who laid Jesus' body in his tomb.

Magdalene – The Mary who Jesus appeared to.

- **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

1. Read the whole passage to the students as they read along in their Bibles.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Our faith depends on the resurrection.

Discussion Questions: Why is our faith useless if Jesus didn't rise from the dead? How do we know he rose from the dead? If there is no resurrection, why are Christians to be pitied?

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Reading 1: Matthew 26:17-35 The disciples celebrate the Lord's supper
What did Jesus say to Judas? What did Jesus do with the bread and the wine? What did Jesus say Peter would do? How did Peter respond to Jesus?

Reading 2: Matthew 26:36-56 Jesus is arrested.
What did the disciples do while Jesus was praying? What happened when Jesus was arrested?

Reading 3: Matthew 26:57-75 Jesus is brought to trial.
What did Jesus do when he was accused? How did Jesus describe himself? How did the leaders respond to what he said? What did Peter do before the rooster crowed?

Reading 4: Matthew 27:1-31 Jesus is condemned to be crucified

What happened to Judas? How did the religious leaders mock Jesus? Why did Pilate hand Jesus over to be crucified? How did the soldiers mock Jesus?

Reading 5: Matthew 27:32-65 Jesus dies on the cross.

How did the people mock Jesus? What did Jesus cry out before he died? What happened when he died? How did the soldiers respond to that? What did Joseph of Arimathea do for Jesus? What did the religious leaders ask Pilate to do? Why?

Reading 6: Matthew 28 Jesus rises from the dead.

Who did the women find at the tomb? What did the angel say to them? Who did they see? What is the story the soldiers were paid to tell? Who did Jesus appear to? What did he tell them?