

Easter Sunday 2024

(The Gospel Project Volume 3 Unit 8: Customized from the Preschool, Younger, and Older Leader Guides)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION FOR THIS UNIT:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE FOR THIS UNIT:



The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

TODAY'S LESSON: God's Miracles Prove Who He Is

The Bible is a supernatural book filled with accounts of supernatural events. Dozens of miracles are recorded in the Bible. Each miracle points to a greater reality and reveals to us what God is like.

In the story of Israel's crossing the Jordan, we see how God hears our cries and provides for us in miraculous ways. Throughout Israel's history, we see miracles that reveal the kind of God we serve: a God who is close; a God who sees, hears, and acts.

In his book *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis said, "The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares the way for this, or results from this."

All of Scripture reveals the kind of God who comes close, who miraculously took on flesh and lived a perfect life among us. God the Son died in our place and rose from the dead. In His death, He conquered both sin and death. He came back to life and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25) We should be moved when we consider that not only do we have a God who hears us, but who sees us, lived among us, and lives to make intercession for us.

Through the miracle of Christ's finished work, we can be forgiven and reconciled to God. We who were far off and without hope in this life have hope because of the miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

As you prepare to teach, pray and ask the God of miracles to move in the hearts of your kids as they hear the gospel proclaimed. Finally, say a prayer of thanksgiving to a miracle-working God who sees, hears, and acts for His glory and our good.

TERMS TO KNOW:

Miracle: event which unmistakably involves an immediate and powerful action of God designed to reveal His character or purposes

PREPARING YOUR CHILDREN FOR GOD'S WORD:

Make sure that your children have a Bible with them even if they are too young to read.
Have your kids sing along with the worship songs that are posted for this week.

THE BIBLE STORY:

GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

Jesus had died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen), Mary the mother of James, and Salome (suh LOH mih) went to the tomb. It was very early in the morning on the third day after Jesus' death. The women brought spices with them so they could anoint Jesus' body.

As they walked to the tomb, they thought about the large stone covering the entrance to the tomb. "Who will roll away the stone for us?" they wondered. But as they got close to the tomb, they saw that the stone was already rolled away.

The women went into the tomb. A young man wearing a white robe was sitting inside. He was an angel, and the women were afraid.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said. "You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen!" The angel invited the women to look at the place Jesus' body had been laid. Miraculously, Jesus wasn't there.

"Go, tell His disciples. Tell Peter!" the angel instructed. "Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just like He told you."

The women ran from the tomb. They were overwhelmed with fear and excitement, afraid to say anything to anyone.

APPLICATION:

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus promised His disciples He would rise from the dead. Now the time had come for that to happen. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Jesus. They wondered who would roll the large stone away. When they arrived, they were shocked to find the stone had already been moved. They saw an angel inside the tomb, but Jesus was nowhere to be found. The women were afraid. The angel told them not to fear. He said Jesus had risen from the dead just like He said He would. This was a miracle!

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful. God's miracles prove who He is. God had a plan all along to send a Rescuer who would save people from sin. God's promise had finally been fulfilled in Jesus! Only God can raise people from the dead. Jesus was more than a prophet; Jesus is God the Son, and His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection prove it! We can trust God and His Word. We can look at God's miracles and believe He is who He says He is. Jesus' resurrection has made the way for us to have salvation. Just like the angel told the women not to fear, those who put their trust in Jesus have nothing to fear.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and miraculously raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.

TIMELINE MOMENT:

We have learned some amazing things together. The Bible tells us everything we need to know about God's rescue

plan to save His people. We learned about Adam and Eve and the beginning of the story, and we have heard how God has been faithful to His people—even when they were unfaithful to Him. Today, we will jump forward and see how God won ultimate victory over sin and death and miraculously completed His great rescue plan.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

2-5 Year Olds:

What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?

What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?

Whom did God raise from the dead?

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade:

How did the women react when they arrived at Jesus' tomb? Why?

Guide your kids to recognize that the women were fearful and amazed. They were expecting to anoint Jesus' body with spices. Instead, Jesus was not there. They found that the large stone had been rolled away. An angel was there so they were shocked. Their Lord was gone and they didn't understand why. They were not thinking about Jesus' promise to rise again.

How did the angel respond to the women's fear?

Help your kids recall that the angel told the women to not be afraid. He told them what happened to Jesus and comforted them. Jesus was alive. He told the women that Jesus had gone ahead of them and would meet them in Galilee. He wanted the women to share this wonderful news.

Who can you tell about the miraculous news that Jesus is God the Son, who died and rose to rescue us from sin??

Encourage your kids to think about friends, neighbors, or family members they know who may not know Jesus. Pray for your kids to have wisdom and courage to know how and when to share the gospel.

3rd-5th Grade:

As the women walked to the tomb, they thought about the stone and wondered how they would move it. The stone was an obstacle. Is there any obstacle in your life keeping you from wholeheartedly following Jesus?

Point out that God has worked many miracles. He brought Jesus back from the dead! Assure your kids that there is no obstacle God cannot overcome. Suggest that your kids ask God to help them in their struggles so that they can grow and follow Jesus more closely. Encourage your kids to speak to a parent or other trusted adult about any problems they're facing.

(Option: read James 1:2-4.)

The angel told the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was alive. Who can you tell about the good news of Jesus?

Explain that your kids can remind other Christians about Jesus' resurrection. This good news gives us hope and helps us look forward to spending eternity with God. We can also share the gospel with people who do not follow Jesus. Jesus is the only way for people to have forgiveness and life forever instead of death and punishment in hell.

(Option: read Mark 16:15.)

How do Bible stories about miracles change how you think about God? How might these truths change your life?

Invite your kids to share their ideas. Any time we read or study the Bible, we should respond, which means doing

something about what we have learned. God's Word can transform and change us to be more like Jesus.

(Option: read Heb. 4:12.)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask your kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with your kids.

God rules. Explain to your kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell your kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with your kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell your kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.