



Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

Fifth- and sixth-graders are hovering on the cusp of abstract thought. They're probably just beginning to struggle with the concept of Christ's resurrection and assimilating that concept into their own faith lives. This lesson can give students an idea of what it must have been like to encounter the newly risen Christ.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Good News in My Shoes (about 20 min.) Create skits to demonstrate the best news for people in various situations.		
2 Bible Exploration	Jesus and Mary (about 20 min.) Hear an interview with Mary Magdalene about her encounter with the risen Christ, and then create website content to share the news.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point

Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate the true meaning of Easter in their everyday lives.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	<p>Good News From Me to You <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Write an email message to personalize the Key Verse, and then choose a way to share the good news with others.</p>	Bibles, tape, Bible Buzz, pens, self-stick notes, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Good News Messages" poster 	Tape the "Good News Messages" poster on the wall where kids can reach it.
4 Lasting Impressions	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Buzz	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Mary, John, and Peter Discover an Empty Tomb

It is obvious from Mary's response and from that of the disciples that no one expected Jesus to rise from the dead.

The “other disciple” mentioned in verse 2 was John himself. Even though he arrived at the tomb first, he didn’t go in immediately. Bold, impetuous Peter arrived after John and burst into the tomb to see what had happened. The body was gone, but the grave clothes were still there. In fact, the wrap that had been on Jesus’ head was folded up, not tossed carelessly as a grave robber might have done. We aren’t told of Peter’s response, but we see that when John followed him in and saw the position of the grave clothes, John believed.

Peter and John left the tomb, but Mary couldn't. For her, the disappearance of Jesus' body was still a mystery. As she stood outside sobbing, she peered into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. In her grief, it didn't register who or what they were. Her response to the angels' inquiry indicates that she hadn't grasped what had happened. She was sad because she thought Jesus' body had been taken away. She had no comprehension that Jesus had risen.

Mary Doesn't Recognize the Risen Jesus

Why did Mary not recognize the Lord she was looking for when she turned around and saw him? Several factors probably contributed to her lack of recognition: She knew he was dead and was not expecting him to be alive, she may not have raised her eyes to really look at him because she didn't want to show her tears, she may not have seen clearly through her tears anyway, and Jesus was now in his glorified body—he may have looked very different from when she had last seen him.

It is interesting that Jesus repeated the same question the angels had asked Mary. The angels and Jesus were both trying to help Mary understand what had actually happened. But she just couldn't comprehend it until Jesus called her name. She knew the voice of Jesus and recognized him.

The Jesus Connection

The same voice Mary heard calls to us, inviting, assuring, welcoming us into a full life with him—a timeless relationship with Jesus.

It was the resurrection of Jesus that changed everything and gave the disciples the courage they needed to face death unafraid. How is the resurrection of Christ changing the way you live? What questions do you have for God? Ask him right now. You can write your prayer here.

**1****GETTING
STARTED**

Good News in My Shoes

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Say: **Today we're going to talk about good news and what different people might consider to be the best news they've ever heard.**

Have students form trios.

Say: **In a moment, I'm going to assign your trio a character and a situation. I'd like you to take some time to talk together about the best possible news your assigned character could hear. Then I'd like you to work in your trio to create a short skit demonstrating the character hearing the good news. Make sure everyone in your trio has a part in the skit.**

Assign each trio one of the following characters and situations (it's okay if more than one trio is assigned the same character and situation):

- a new student in school on the first day of school,
- a high school student on the day of a big test he or she didn't study for,
- a homeless person in a northern city as winter approaches, or
- a person who lives in a nursing home with no family nearby.

Make sure trios understand what they're supposed to be doing, and then give them several minutes to discuss and prepare their skits. You may even want to provide props and costumes for students to use.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think of this exercise? Explain.**
- **It's interesting that the "best news" can be different for every person. What's the best news you've ever heard?**
- **Do you think it's good to share good news with other people? Why or why not?**
- **What's the good news of Easter?**

Say: **Today is Easter Sunday. The good news of Easter is that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Listen closely, because we're going to hear about it from one person's special point of view.**



**2****BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Jesus and Mary

What You'll Do



Hold up the Bible Timeline, and show kids the “Jesus Is Crucified and Rises From the Dead” picture.

Say: You're all reporters for a brand-new website that gives up-to-the-minute news. You've been assigned to cover a fast-breaking news story. In a moment, you'll hear a “live” interview of someone who was a witness to the best news ever. I'd like you to listen for important facts and other details that would be good to include in your news story.

Play “I Was There” (track 9 on the CD). When the segment is finished, have students remain in their trios from the previous activity. Give each trio Bibles and pens, and have students turn to “The Best News of All” in Bible Buzz. Assign each trio one of the following website components (it's okay if more than one trio is assigned the same component):

- a news article that shares all of the important facts and details of this amazing event,
- a cartoon about the event, or
- a letter to the editor from another eyewitness that expresses his or her views of the event.

Say: You can also find this story in John 20:1-18. I'd like you to read the story in your trios and then work on your assignments on your Bible Buzz website page.

Give trios some time to read and work, and then have each trio share its website content.

Talk With Kids



Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How would you have felt if you were Mary Magdalene?
- Why is the news she shared such good news?
- Why do you think Mary was so eager to share the good news?
- How do you feel about sharing this good news?

Say: Mary was so excited to see Jesus alive. Let's listen to a song that might express her feelings.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25) (track 10 on the CD), encouraging kids to sing along.

I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.
(Repeat.)

Jesus and Mary Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
CD player
copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: “I Was There” (track 9), “I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25) (track 10)
Bible Timeline

Jesus and Mary Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





**There's no! other way to the Father.
No! other way to the Son.
No! other way to Jesus.**

**We must believe, we must believe,
We must believe in him alone!**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.
(Repeat.)**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
I am the resurrection and the life!**

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: Mary told the disciples, "He is alive!" It's still true today that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Let's share the news of Jesus' resurrection with the same excitement.

Good News From Me to You Supplies

Bibles
tape
Bible Buzz
pens
self-stick notes
CD player
copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) (track 11)
"Good News Messages" poster

Good News From Me to You Easy Prep

Tape the "Good News Messages" poster on the wall where kids can reach it.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Good News From Me to You

What You'll Do

Say: The good news of Easter can be summed up in one Bible verse.

Have students look up and read the Key Verse, Romans 10:9, in Bible Buzz: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Then distribute pens and have students turn to the "Good News Email" section in Bible Buzz.

Say: I'd like each of you to take a moment to think about how you could rephrase the words of this verse to share them with a friend. Then write the friend an email message on your Bible Buzz page.

When students have finished creating their messages, have volunteers share what they wrote.

Say: Now that you have the good news of Easter summed up in your own words, let's think of ways a person might share this news with other people.

Give each student a self-stick note.



Say: **On the Internet, you can post messages on message boards. Message boards allow people to exchange messages about their interests. I'd like you to write on your note one way a person might share the good news of Easter with someone else. Be creative. When you've finished, come forward and "post" your message on our "Good News Messages" poster.**

Give kids time to think, write, and post their messages. You may wish to post a message, too.

Read aloud what each person wrote.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) (track 11 on the CD). Have kids refer to the copies of the lyrics.

 **For if you confess,
Confess with your mouth
That Jesus is Lord,
If you believe,
Believe in your heart
That God raised him from the dead...**
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

**You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; oh—**YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!****
(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

**Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!!**

"Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is the good news of Easter?**
- Why is it important to share the good news of Easter?**

Say: **Mary Magdalene was so excited about Christ's resurrection that she couldn't control her emotions. ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**





Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz

Ask:

- Do you ever feel excited about the good news of Easter? Why or why not?
- How might your enthusiasm about the good news of Easter help someone else to believe?

4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Come forward and take one message off the message board. Choose one that you'd like to try to do this week as a personal Daily Challenge. If you can't find one you like, or if someone else takes the one you want, write your own on another note.

Let kids choose their notes. Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's recognize that by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' resurrection. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close with this prayer or a similar one. Pray: Dear God, thank you for sending your Son and sacrificing his life so that we might live with you. Please help us to share our joy about your amazing good news with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Lyrics**

I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.
(Repeat.)

There's no! other way to the Father.
No! other way to the Son.
No! other way to Jesus.

We must believe, we must believe,
We must believe in him alone!

I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.
(Repeat.)

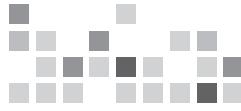
I am the resurrection and the life!
I am the resurrection and the life!

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



! OK
TO COPY





Lyrics

Confess With Your Mouth (Romans 10:9)

For if you confess,
Confess with your mouth
That Jesus is Lord,
If you believe,
Believe in your heart
That God raised him from the dead...
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved;
you will be saved; oh—**YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!**
(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!

"Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

