

# *Upper Elementary*

## *The Resurrection*

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Topic:	Resurrection
Materials:	small puzzle, white papers, white crayons, water glass, red food coloring
Prep:	Write "Jesus rose from the grave." in white crayon on a strip of paper.
Intro:	Give children a puzzle minus one piece. After they have put everything else together, ask what is wrong? Is the puzzle complete? Why not? Jesus did many great things on earth. He taught lessons through parables. He healed sick people and even raised the dead. He shared God's love with people. He warned everyone to repent and turn towards God. But any prophet could have done those things through God's power. What did Jesus do that no human could possibly do? (take away our sins) Jesus' biggest reason for coming here was to take our punishment for sin so we don't have to. When He died on the cross, many of His followers were confused. They didn't understand what was going on. It was like they had the puzzle almost completely put together, they just didn't know what the last piece was.
Mark 16:1-3	When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"
	Point out cabinets, shelves or something else nearby that is extremely heavy. Ask if any of the children can pick them up. The stone in front of Jesus' tomb would have been several times heavier. It would take a few strong soldiers to move it away. The women were wondering who would help them with this stone. They still did not have the last piece of the puzzle.



## Resurrection

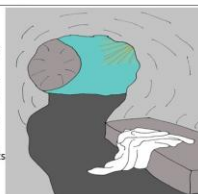


Mark 16:1-3

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Tombs were rooms carved into the side of hills. They might have one person or a whole family buried in them. Tombs needed to be well sealed because of animals. They were outside the city limits for sanitary reasons.



<p>Matthew 28:2-8</p>	<p>Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from the sky and came and rolled away the stone from the door and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook, and became like dead men. The angel answered the women, "Don't be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just like He said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, He goes before you into Galilee; there you will see Him.' Behold, I have told you." They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.</p>
	<p>Have you ever been in an earthquake? It is very scary. You don't know what's happening. Imagine that followed by seeing someone who was as bright as lightning. The women were frightened and happy at the same time. Everything was so confusing. They still did not have the last piece of the puzzle.</p>



#### Matthew 28:2-8

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Jerusalem and Galilee are 63 miles apart. Walking, it would take Jesus' disciples at least four days to complete the journey.



John 20:2-10	<p>Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have laid Him!" Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he didn't enter in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed. For as yet they didn't know the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.</p>
	<p>John is writing this account and whenever he wrote about himself, he would refer to himself as the disciple that Jesus loved or Jesus' favorite disciple, rather than by his name. John had a very close friendship with Jesus. Many Bible scholars think that John may have even been Jesus' half-brother (the son of Mary and Joseph). Simon Peter and John must have read the prophecies from the Old Testament several times. Ask children what they have recently learned in math. Remember the first time you saw a ____ (subtraction, multiplication, fractions, etc) problem? You probably didn't understand it and found it confusing or even frustrating. But then after learning about it you can see the same math problem and it makes perfect sense. That's what it was like for these disciples. They had read the prophecies, but they didn't understand them yet. They still did not have the last piece of the puzzle.</p>

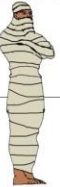


John 20:2-10

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In ancient Israel, the dead were wrapped in pieces of linen cloth, called *Tachrichim*, instead of in regular clothes.



John 20:11-18	<p>But Mary was standing outside at the tomb weeping. So, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, and didn't know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away. Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni!" which is to say, "Teacher!" Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had said these things to her.</p>
puzzle piece	<p>Mary had already been told the good news, but just like Peter and John, she still did not understand. She still hadn't seen Jesus and was overcome by everything that was happening. Have you ever felt so confused you just started crying? Maybe on a test where you didn't know the answers and felt frustrated. Mary was so confused she didn't even recognize Jesus at first. She actually thought He was the gardener. But then Jesus spoke her name and she finally had the last piece of the puzzle (take out last puzzle piece and put it in puzzle).</p>




John 20:11-18


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Matthew 28:11-15	Now while they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the elders and had taken counsel, they gave a large amount of silver to the soldiers, saying, "Say that His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry." So, they took the money and did as they were told. This saying was spread abroad among the Jews, and continues until today.
	Today not everyone believes that Jesus rose from the dead. Many people say the whole story was made up. Sometimes people just don't want to believe in something. They will accept any explanation so they don't have to. In Jesus' time it was the same way. Those who did not like Jesus spread stories to convince others the whole resurrection never happened. It is the job of Christians to share the missing puzzle piece with people who cannot see the whole picture yet.

Matthew 28:11-15

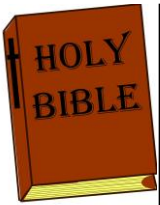
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Draw Lines to Match

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Rollled away the stone	Mary Magdalene
Rose from the dead	Angel

paper & water cup	Take out piece of paper with "Jesus rose from the grave" written in white crayon.
	Before Jesus was nailed to the cross, He told His disciples many times what was going to happen to Him. In Matthew 16:21, Jesus told them He would suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. His disciples did not understand what He was saying. I have a piece of paper here, with a message. Can you see the message? (no) It is just like when Jesus told the disciples about His resurrection. They could not understand, just like you can't see the message on this paper
	Loosely roll and dip the paper into a glass of water containing four or five drops of food coloring.
	This represents the blood of Christ that was shed for us.
	After about one minute, remove the paper and spread onto a dry paper towel. The message will become visible.
	The message became clear for the disciples after they visited the tomb, and found Jesus gone. He rose from the grave, and then the disciples understood.
	Give paper and crayons to the students so they can write their own message to be revealed and taken home or displayed on the wall after the paper dries. Offer suggestions such as "'Jesus is alive,' 'Jesus rose on the third day,' 'Jesus Lives,' etc. for possible messages. Make sure they press hard with the white crayon to make the message stand out better.

# Resurrection

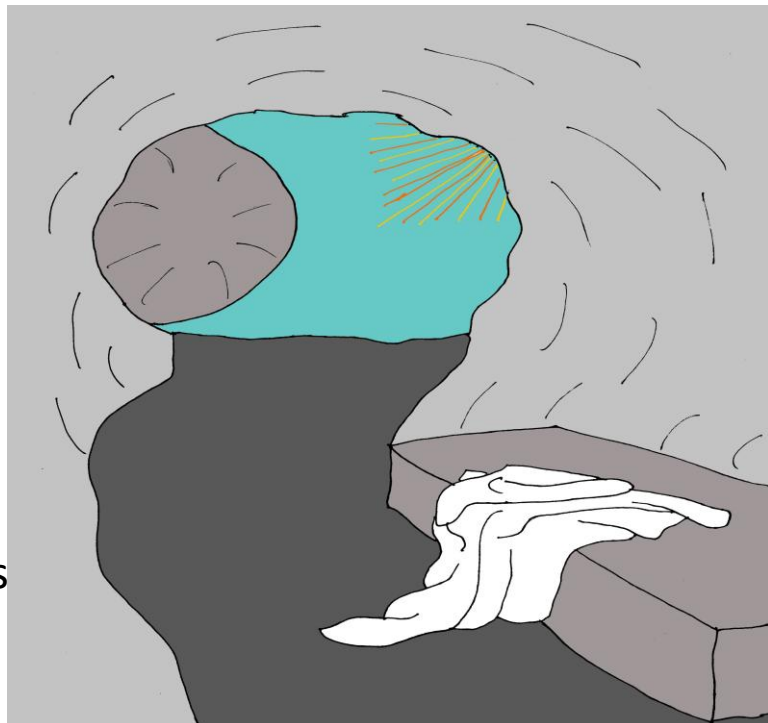


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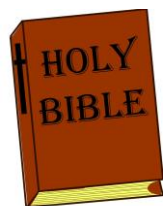
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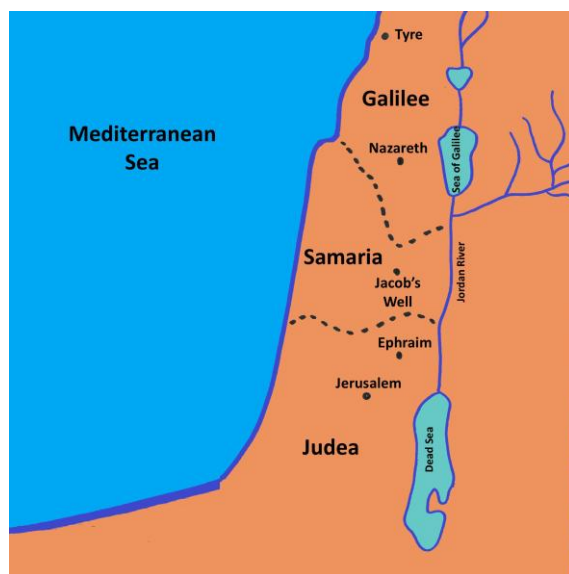


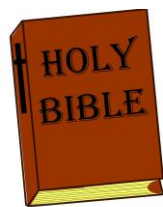
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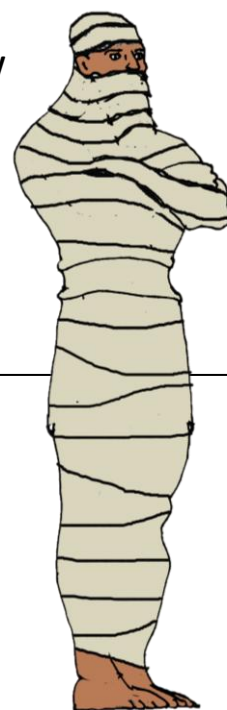
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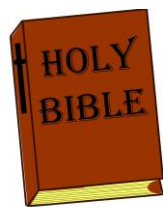


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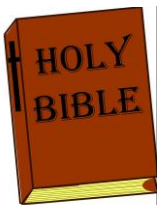
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