

# Holy Week and God's Plan of Salvation

## **Easter Sunday: Jesus Rises Alive and Victorious!**

When Jesus was alive and teaching, Jesus told the disciples that He will die and rise again. But the disciples were confused and didn't understand or remember. When Jesus rose alive on Sunday morning, what a shock and surprise! Good Friday is the first part of the best news in the world, how Jesus forgave our sins with His bleeding and dying. Now we will study the second part of the best news in the world – because Jesus lives, we will live.

1. Fear is a big part of Easter. What were the Jewish leaders afraid of? What were the disciples afraid of?
2. Joy is a bigger part of Easter. How did joy change the disciples' lives?
3. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for your life every day?

### **On Saturday – Making Sure Jesus is Dead**

Read Matthew 27:62-66. How afraid of Jesus were the Jewish leaders? What did they ask Pilate to do? Did Pilate give the command?

Some people today say that Jesus never rose alive. Some say that the disciples stole Jesus' body. Others say the disciples never put Jesus in the tomb. Others say that Jesus never died. He only passed out. The disciples put Jesus in the tomb, Jesus woke up and escaped. How would you answer these ideas?

### **The Guards are the First to See**

Read Matthew 28:1-4. When the angel came down, what happened to the guards?

Why did the angel roll away the stone?

Now read Matthew 28:11-15 to see what happened when the guards told the Jews about what happened. What did the Jewish leaders think about the guards' story? Did they think the guards were lying or telling the truth?

What did the Jewish leaders tell the guards to do and say?

### **Jesus Appears to the Women**

Read Matthew 28:5-10 (1253). Remember the guards' reaction in verse 4? What is the first thing the angel tells the women? Why the difference? Why let the guards be afraid, but the women don't need to be afraid?

The angel said a couple very important things. Read verse 6 again.

1. Jesus has been brought back to \_\_\_\_\_...

How important is it that Jesus is alive? Read 1 Corinthians 15:14 and 15:17-19 (1443)

2. ...as He \_\_\_\_\_.

How faithful are Jesus' words? What promises has Jesus made about your future with Him? Is He able to do those promises? How do you know?

After the women saw the angel, they ran to tell the disciples the news. (They were still afraid, too.) Suddenly, Jesus appeared to them. What did the women do? What does that say about who Jesus is?

### **Peter and John See the Empty Tomb**

Jesus appeared to the women, but it seems Mary Magdalene left the group and didn't see Jesus. Read John 20:1-9. What did she think happened?

Peter and John (the "other disciple") ran to the tomb. What did they see in the tomb? If someone stole Jesus' body, what would the tomb and cloths look like?

What did John believe?

### **Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

Read John 20:10-18. Peter and John were probably still confused, but may have had some hope. What was Mary thinking and feeling?

Jesus came to Mary gently, not harsh or scolding. What did Jesus want Mary to tell the disciples? How is that important for us? What do Jesus' words say about our relationship with Him?

Could Jesus stay on earth with the disciples forever, or was it better for Jesus to leave? Why? Read John 16:7 and Hebrews 4:14-16.

### **Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Thomas**

Read John 20:19-23. The disciples were like the women: afraid. Why were they afraid? How did Jesus' peace take away their fears?

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I am \_\_\_\_\_ you." Jesus breathed on His disciples, and He sent them with two very important things, both important for our salvation and other people's salvation. What are they?

Thomas refused to believe Jesus was alive. When did Thomas say he will believe Jesus is alive? Did he believe when he saw Jesus?

What did Jesus say about people who believe even though they haven't seen Him?

We can't see Jesus now. But we can believe in Him. How can we "see" and believe?