

Luke 24:1-12

Surprise! (Part 2)

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Memory Verse: Luke 24:6a *“He is not here, but is risen!”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “surprise” theme from last week, we will see how Jesus pulls the greatest SURPRISE in the history of the whole world when He conquered the grave on the very first Easter Sunday.

Activities and Crafts: He is Risen Coloring Picture, Easter Word Search, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.

Craft for ALL Grades: Jesus Saves Sun Catchers

Starter Activity: Surprise Video and Skit

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room initially for some Easter fun. We will first watch a video that talks about surprises: some good, and some not so good. Then afterwards we will have a short skit that will transition us into our lesson.

For the first half of our lesson, we will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room and teach about the life of Jesus and highlight several of the “surprises” of His life. We will finish the first half of the lesson with the event that surprised all of His followers, His death on the cross.

At this point we will dismiss the 1st and 2nd graders to their classrooms as usual and have the teachers finish the second half of the lesson which will cover our text on the resurrection.

First Half Large Group Study:

Jesus began His ministry when He was about 30 and He took everyone by SURPRISE! He spent three years preaching God's love to the world and performing miracles. *

Q: What are some of the miracles that Jesus performed that you think would have surprised you?

A: Feeding the 5000, raising Lazarus, walking on the water, etc.

Read **John 20:30-31**, which describes why these miracles were done and why they were written down. So that we may believe and trust in Him!

So people were following Jesus and excited to be with Him, but then something happened that SURPRISED them all. Jesus was arrested, beaten, and sentenced to death! His hands and feet were nailed to a cross. The soldiers laughed at Him and made fun of Him. His disciples expected Jesus to fight back, but He SURPRISED everyone when He didn't fight back. He did not deserve to be on the cross, because He did nothing wrong....in fact, He lived a perfect life! *

Q: Why do you think Jesus did not fight back? *

A: Read **Mark 10:45**. Because giving His life is what He came to do! Jesus was the only one NOT SURPRISED by His death on the cross!

Q: And why did He come to die? Because of OUR sin!

I think this old rhyme perfectly illustrates this: *

*“Jesus Christ knew how wicked man had been
And knew that God must punish sin
So, out of pity, Jesus said
He'd bear the punishment instead”*

Let's say this again, but instead let's make it more personal:

*“Jesus Christ knew how wicked **I** had been
And knew that God must punish **MY** sin
So, out of pity, Jesus said
He'd bear **MY** punishment instead”*

SURPRISE! When I first understood this, I was so **SURPRISED** by God's love and God's kindness that I couldn't hardly believe it was true! Do you believe it?

Boys and Girls: This is the greatest gift of ALL time. This is why Jesus is the superhero of Easter. God made a way for everyone of your sins, past, present, and future, to be forgiven and paid for. (**John 3:16**) But YOU must believe and receive. Have you?

Teachers: At this point we will dismiss 1st and 2nd graders to their classrooms to finish the rest of lesson.

Second Half Bible Study:

So Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Is that the end of the story? No! A few more SURPRISES were yet to come. Let's open our Bibles and see! *

Luke 24:1-3: So this is now Easter Sunday and the women were coming to prepare Jesus's body for a proper burial. **SURPRISE!** Imagine being one of those ladies. *

Q: What would you have expected to see? What would you have been thinking? *

Luke 24:4: SURPRISE! So instead of finding Jesus's dead body, there are two strange and shiny dudes there.

Q: Who are these two strange and shiny dudes? A: Angels!

Luke 24:5-6a: SURPRISE! What did the angels say? *

Q: Again, if you were one of the ladies, what might you be thinking now? *

Luke 24:6b-8: The angels remind them that Jesus actually told them that He would die and rise again the third day. Remember, Jesus was the only one NOT SURPRISED by own His death and resurrection.

Read Luke 18:31-34: This was one of many times where Jesus told them what was going to happen, but they did not understand it. Now it is as if the lightbulb has come on!

Q: What do you think the ladies are going to do now that they believe and understand?
A: Run and tell the others!

Luke 24:9-11: The first group they ran to tell were the apostles, the guys who left everything to follow Jesus. **SURPRISE!** *

Q: Did they believe right away? A: No! They thought it was nonsense, a fairy tale!

There are people who still think that today, that Jesus rising from the dead is just a fairy tale made up to make us feel good. But this is like saying MLK Jr. is just a fairy tale.

Q: How do you know Martin Luther King Jr. is not a fairy tale? It is history. There are people still alive today that were around when he gave his, "*I have a dream*" speech. They were eyewitnesses and can testify to it. * Also, we have written records of his life.

Boys and Girls: We also have written records of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus by eyewitnesses who saw it. We can trust them as real history. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is just as real as MLK's life!

Luke 24:12: Peter wanted to see for himself. It says that he marveled! **SURPRISE!**

Key Point: Like Peter, marvel at the fact of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that SURPRISED the disciples and still SURPRISES people today.

Marvel that Jesus Christ would willingly go to the cross for your sins.

Marvel that He conquered the grave.

Marvel that He invites a sinner like you to receive forgiveness of sins.

Marvel that He offers everlasting life to you by simple faith and trust in Him.

Marvel enough so that it changes your life and how you live your life.

2 Corinthians 5:15 says, *“Jesus died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”*

SURPRISE your parents when they come and pick you up and tell them that you want to live your life this week for Jesus!

Classroom Time Afterwards: We have a special Easter craft for ALL of the kids to do after the lesson.

Easter Devotional

Lesson Theme: “Surprise! (Part 2)”

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Memory Verse: Luke 24:6a *“He is not here, but is risen!”*

Teachers/Parents: In our lesson we emphasized how the death, and especially the resurrection of Jesus Christ, were perhaps the greatest “surprises” the world has ever seen. Here we are almost 2000 years later and people all around the world are still celebrating and remembering this wonderful surprise. Can you think of a time someone surprised you with something good? What happened and how did you feel?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Luke 24:1-12** and point out every time someone in the account is surprised. Why were they so surprised?
- 2) Read **Luke 18:31-34**. This was now the third time Jesus has told them that he is going to die and rise again. Why do you think they did not understand?
- 3) Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**. The apostle Paul tells the church in Corinth that they have already received the gospel, but yet he is about to declare it to them again. Why do you think he would do this if they already have heard it before?
- 4) In **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, what does Paul say is primary or of “first importance”?
- 5) The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ not only actually happened in history, but happened “according to the Scriptures”. This means that the Old Testament had predicted and foreshadowed this event. Why is this significant?
- 6) In **1 Corinthians 15:5-6**, Paul mentions others who can testify to the facts of the resurrection event. Contrast this with many other world religions that have one central figure who had a private spiritual experience and then started a religion. How is Christianity’s origin different and also more convincing and amazing?
- 7) Some people may follow Christian teachings, but don’t actually believe Jesus rose from the dead. Read **1 Corinthians 15:14**. What point is Paul making to such people?
- 8) Read **2 Corinthians 5:15**. What does this verse say about how Christians should live because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? How can you live for Jesus Christ this week?