

LESSON AIM: To experience the retelling the events of Christ's death and resurrection by Jesus Himself after He was resurrected.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 22-24:35

REVIEW QUESTIONS: ("Ok, who remembers from last week's lesson...")

- 1) Why is the resurrection so important?
- 2) Which disciple didn't believe Jesus was alive unless he touched the wounds in Jesus' hands and feet?
- 3) Can someone explain last week's Bible verse in their own words?

Visual Lesson Introduction: (*Time permitting*) *Recommended to practice this before the lesson!

Cover a table with newspaper. In sandwich size zip bag place approx 1T of baking soda. In a snack-size zip-lock bag place ¼ cup vinegar. Blow some air into it, seal it and place inside the sandwich bag with baking soda. Remove as much air as possible from the baking soda bag. Place on newspaper-covered table. Show the plastic bags and explain the contents. Place bags on table and smack down hard with your fist on the bags. The vinegar bag should break open inside the sandwich bag, but make sure the outside bag remains sealed. (If it pops open, quickly seal it again.) Shake the two bags to mix the vinegar and baking soda, and then place the bag back on the table. It will fill with gas and might even burst open!

When vinegar and soda mix, something new is formed: a gas called carbon dioxide. When something new is created by bringing two different things together, that's a **transformation**.

The most important part of God's plan for US involves **transformation**. WE are transformed when Jesus becomes a part of our lives and we become members of God's family. Today's Bible event is from the gospel book of Luke 22. In this story, we'll hear all about what Jesus did so that we can be transformed into members of God's family.

I. INTRODUCTION

We were created to be companions of our Father in heaven, but sin separated us from God. Christ died on the cross to make a way for us to get back to God. He paid the payment for our sin with His own life that we might be brought into a right relationship with God. This is the only way an unholy people can approach a holy God.

Others have died for a good cause, but the grave was the end. But Jesus Christ rose again and is alive! He appeared to Mary Magdalene (**John 20:11-18**), the other women (**Matt 28:1, 8-10**), Peter (**I Corinthians 15:5**), and the disciples on the way to Emmaus (**Luke 24:13-35**). What effect did these appearances have on the disciples? They knew in whom they believed; they knew that He conquered death and that He was a risen Master and Lord and Savior. But other people weren't so sure that the stories of Jesus being alive were true... and today many people aren't sure if the story is true!

We are going to read about two people who were leaving Jerusalem after they saw Jesus die. They were very sad and confused about all that happened. As they were walking to the town of Emmaus, they were joined by a stranger...

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

[To involve the students a bit more into the story, have 3 volunteers "act out" the story as you and your helper, or another student, read it (which will involve listening and a little improvisation with lots of facial expression, so pick out some students that you think might be good actors for this particular story). Tell a 4th volunteer to loudly whisper "**Just as God had planned**" every time you point at him or her. You

can use simple sheet costumes, but make sure you have a special “head covering” or shroud over Jesus, who is in disguise during the whole conversation until the end.]

[Teacher should be Narrator 1, helper or another student can be Narrator 2]

Nar 1: One day, two people who loved and followed Jesus talked together and were very sad as they walked toward the town of Emmaus. Suddenly, a stranger joined them.

Stranger: “Excuse me,” said the stranger. “What are you talking about and why do you both seem so sad?”

Nar 1: “You must new around here,” one of them answered. “Haven’t you heard about the things that have happened in Jerusalem?”

Stranger: “What things?” the stranger asked.

Nar 1: “Jesus of Nazareth—our friend, the One who taught us about God—has been...KILLED!”

[Teacher point to volunteer who whispers, “Just as God had planned!”]

Nar 2: The other friend of Jesus said, “We just don’t understand. He did so many miracles! He healed the sick, made the lame walk, and the blind see! We thought that He was the Messiah, that He was going to deliver us from the Romans, but everything went terribly wrong.”

Nar 1: “That’s right. Just a few days ago, we were all celebrating Passover, and Jesus and all His close friends went to the garden to pray. And Judas, one of the disciples, had agreed to help Jesus’ enemies arrest Him!

Nar 2: Can you believe that, a friend! Someone He trusted betrayed Him! He led the soldiers to the garden and they arrested Jesus and took Him away like a criminal.

[Teacher point to volunteer who whispers, “Just as God had planned!”]

Nar 2: “After he was arrested, things just got worse!”

Nar 1: “The men who were guarding Jesus beat Him badly and made fun of Him. Then they sent Him to Pilate, who had the power to put all of this to a stop. Pilate tried to talk the people into letting Jesus go free, but the crowds wouldn’t listen.

Nar 2: “It was like they WANTED Jesus to die! Why?! It was the craziest thing I had ever seen... the huge crowd of people shouting “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

Nar 1: “Pilate KNEW that Jesus was innocent, and instead of letting Him go free, He wanted to make the people happy, so Pilate allowed Jesus to be killed!

[Teacher point to volunteer who whispers, “Just as God had planned!”]

Nar 2: “Then they made Him carry that heavy cross up the hill after they had whipped Him, and they put a crown of thorns on His head. Then they nailed Him to that cross. We couldn’t believe this was happening. This was not how it was supposed to end!”

Nar 1: “He was on that cross for 6 hours, and when he was dead they took down his body, wrapped it up and buried Him in a nearby tomb. They rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to close it, never to be opened again.”

Stranger: The stranger rubbed his hand on his chin...

Nar 2: “But this is where the story gets really strange! In the morning the women came to put spices and perfumes on His body, but when they arrived, that huge, heavy stone in front of the grave had been rolled away and Jesus’ body was gone!”

Nar 1: “But that seems impossible, I’m sure those women were just imaging things.”

Nar 2: “But there’s more to their story... there were two men, some say they were angels, standing there at the empty tomb! The men told the women that Jesus wasn’t in the tomb, because He wasn’t dead anymore, and that Jesus was alive!

[Teacher point to volunteer who whispers, “Just as God had planned!”]

Nar 1: No one knows what’s going on; it’s all just a bunch of crazy stories. But we saw Jesus die. All hope for the Messiah is lost.

Nar 2: Yeah, everyone is sad and afraid. That’s why we’re getting out of town.

Teacher: The stranger listened for a long time, and then probably slapped His own hand on his forehead in frustration! (*Make sure the student playing the stranger hears you, if not repeat*)

Stranger: “Oh foolish ones! And slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!”

Teacher: He began to explain that the Messiah was SUPPOSED TO suffer all these things...

[Teacher point to volunteer who says, “Just as God had planned.”]

...He explained that Jesus HAD to suffer and die and rise from the dead. There was no other way people’s sins could be forgiven. There was no other way to bring people to God! The two people begged the stranger to stay and eat with them... AND THEN... When the stranger thanked God for the food, he lifted up his head to give thanks... (*Dramatic pause*)... and the disciples got the surprise of their lives! Their mouths dropped open and they gasped! They suddenly realized that the stranger was actually Jesus Himself! He really WAS alive! Then, at the blink of an eye, the stranger—Jesus—was gone! They turned around and ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others the incredible news that everything really had happened...

[Teacher: invite everyone to loudly say it together, “Just as God had planned!”]

CONCLUSION:

Our Bible verse for today, **1 Peter 3:18** says, “**Christ suffered once for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.**” Because Jesus died and rose again, our sins can be forgiven. And that is the most important part of God’s awesome plan for you!

Invitation: When you believe that Jesus is God’s Son who died and rose again so that you could be forgiven, you can become a member of God’s family and live with Him, now and forever, no longer separated from God. If you believe this, you can ask Him today to be your Lord and Savior. Ask the children if any have not prayed the prayer of salvation they can do it today and come to God. God wants you to come to Him. Jesus will transform your life and make you more like Him.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Christ suffered once for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”

1 Peter 3:18