

Week 4: Jesus' Power Means We Don't Have to Fear Death

Scripture: Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:33-28:10)

Supplies: paper, washable markers, paper towel, objects to build a tomb (such as pillows, couch cushions, or a blanket to place over a table)

Intro

Happy Easter! Easter is a special day to celebrate how Jesus defeated sin and death. Today we're going to celebrate, because Jesus' power means we don't have to fear death.

First, let's talk about God Sightings. How did you see God at work last week?

I love watching God at work in our world. But I have to admit, sometimes I get so caught up with what's happening around me that it's hard to find God in all the chaos. Let's play a game to see what that's like.

Game

Here's how we'll play.

- Have the oldest person in the room quickly choose a small household object to hide. Got it? Show it to everyone.
- Everyone else will cover their eyes and slowly count out loud while the Hider hides the object somewhere in the house. No peeking!
- Okay, here's the catch: you'll only have 2 minutes to look. If you find it, shout, "Here it is!" to gather everyone back together. If no one finds it in 2 minutes, the Hider will call time. Ready? Go!

That was a fast-paced game!

What feelings did you have during this game...and have you felt the same things lately?

In this game, there was a lot of pressure to find the object quickly. And in real life lately, there's been a lot of pressure to adapt to constant change and worry. But today we're learning that Jesus' power means we don't need to fear death.

Still, with all the stress, it can be hard to find God.

Discussion

Let's talk about that for a minute. With all that's going on, life can feel confusing. Have you wondered: where is God during tough times like these?

God is here, you can count on that. We just have to look for Him. When you see goodness happening, that's God at work.

And it's okay, especially in times like these, to have trouble finding God. He's still here.

You know, there was a time in the Bible when God's people wondered where God was. They thought all hope was lost. It was the day Jesus died. But they discovered that Jesus' power means we don't have to fear death. Let's look at that story, which you can find in Matthew 27:33-28:10.

Bible Story

Jesus, the only Son of God, had been arrested and sentenced to die. Jesus, who had never done anything wrong. Not once. But Jesus was willing to die on a cross because it was the only way people could be forgiven for their sins—the wrong things they do. When Jesus died, he took the punishment for the wrongs things I do. The wrong things you do. Because he loves you.

(Explain the following and demonstrate each action slowly, allowing time for kids to copy you.)

- Each person grab a sheet of paper and draw a cross outline on it, like this. (Draw a cross outline on a sheet of paper, and hold it up to show.)
- Now write your name inside the outline, because Jesus died for **you!** (Write your name inside the cross and outline, and hold it up to show.)
- Hold your paper to your heart and silently thank Jesus for loving you so much. (Hold your paper to your heart and bow your head.)

When Jesus died, his family and friends were so sad. All their hope was gone. Fold your paper in half, with the cross inside. (Fold your paper.) Jesus was dead.

One of Jesus' friends asked if he could put Jesus' body in a new tomb he had. A tomb was kind of like a cave. Pause the video and work together to build a tomb with the supplies you gathered.

Jesus' friends wrapped his body in cloth and placed it inside the tomb. Jesus had died. It was over. Place your papers inside the tomb.

The guards rolled a stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Cover the entrance to your tomb. (Pick up a pillow and place it to the side, over the paper.)

Three days later, a few of Jesus' friends went to the tomb to prepare his body for burial. Suddenly, an angel appeared to them! "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying."

Look inside your tomb. Your papers are still there...but Jesus' tomb was empty! He had come back to life and left the tomb! Now take out your papers and open them. (Uncover your paper and unfold it.)

- How can knowing that Jesus is alive help you have peace right now, even in these troubling times?

Because Jesus died on the cross, he beat sin. And because Jesus came back to life, he beat death! When you believe in Jesus, you can live with him forever in heaven. Jesus' power means we don't have to fear death.

Use a marker to draw a heart around the cross on your paper. (Draw a heart on the paper.) Jesus loves you so much he wants to be your friend forever! Jump up and let's celebrate! Wave your paper in the air as we sing!

"Jesus Is Alive" (Provide this link in a comment or description under your video.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpZJ-39IT1k>

Jesus is alive! What great news! Because of Jesus, we all have the chance to live with him forever in heaven. Jesus' power means we don't have to fear death. Think of someone who needs to hear the good news of Jesus. I'll pray, and when I pause in my prayer, call out their name.

Dear Lord, thank you for dying for us and coming back to life. Please help me share your good news with this person: _____ . Thank you for loving us so much! In your name, amen.