

# EASTER JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

1 John 5:20; John 20:31; Mark 12:26

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

## BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is alive!
- Jesus paid our sin debt in full and overcame death.
- Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 28:1-10; JOHN 20:1-10

## EASTER

On Easter Sunday each year, we take time to uniquely pause, reflect on, and celebrate Jesus. He left heaven, taking on flesh and modeling true humility to live and walk among us. He lived the sinless life that we could not, He died the death that we deserved to die, and He rose again to conquer death and the grave so that we can have new life in Him.

## AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- All have sinned and are in need of a substitute.
- God sent Jesus to be our substitute.



### Every student should feel...

- Loved by a God who gave His Son as their substitute.



### Every student should be able to...

- Explain that we have all sinned and God sent His Son for us.



### Every student should want...

- To know more about Jesus, who is their substitute.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 11:25

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

### Jesus' resurrection means new life to those who believe.

*"I am the resurrection..."*

- In this bold statement to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, Jesus declares that He is the resurrection. Martha was trusting in a future resurrection that had been promised to one day come, but Jesus tells her that He is the One who holds this resurrection power.
- Jesus knew that He would die for the sins of His people, and He knew that He would rise again, conquering death and the grave.
- Jesus' resurrection means that death is not the end for those who believe in Him.

### Those who place their faith in Jesus will receive new life.

*"I am the resurrection and the life..."*

- Jesus rose from the dead, and he offers life to those who trust in Him. He is able to offer life because He Himself is life. We will not find life apart from Him.
- Faith is not just based on a decision, but is a lifetime of repenting, or confessing and turning from our sin, and returning to Christ and trusting in Him as our source of life and joy.
- When we have new life in Jesus, this will change the way that we live. Our identity, our desires, and our purpose will all be new in Him.
- We will desire to live a life that is pleasing to Christ, and by His power and His Spirit we will be made to be more like Jesus.

### Jesus is the way to eternal life.

*"Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

- Jesus is the only way that we can have eternal life, because He is the giver of life. Without Jesus' resurrection, and without trusting in Him, we have no hope for new life.
- Because we still live in a world that is broken and corrupted by sin, we know that we will experience earthly death one day, just as Lazarus did.
- Like Martha, we have hope in a future resurrection. However, because of Jesus, we also have hope that we can experience new life in Jesus today, and eternal life with Him after we die.
- Death is not final for those who believe in Jesus. Because He overcame death, we will also overcome death. It has no power over our lives, because in Jesus we will live.

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## BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS ALIVE!<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

A few days after Jesus died, some of His followers, Mary and Mary Magdalene, went to the tomb where He was buried. When they got there, instead of finding their friend's body in the tomb as they expected, instead they encountered an earthquake and an angel of the Lord descending from heaven to sit on the stone that was rolled back from the entrance of the tomb. The angel told the women not to be afraid, because Jesus wasn't in the tomb, rather He had risen just as He had said He would! He was not in the tomb because He was no longer dead. He was alive!

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Why does this matter for our faith?**

When the women came expecting to see Jesus' body in the tomb, the angel told them that He had risen just as He said. When Jesus kept His promise and did what He said He would do after He died, it validated everything else that Jesus had ever said or promised. The disciples knew that Jesus had power over death, as previously He had raised Lazarus and others from the dead. Now, however, they knew that He not only was more powerful than death but that He had conquered it and the grave. When we believe that Jesus is alive, we can know this too.

**Why does it matter to us that Jesus is alive today?**

When Jesus rose from the dead, He could never die again. This means that today, He is alive. In Revelation 1:18, Jesus says, "I died, and behold I am alive forevermore." Romans 6:9 reminds us that Christ will never die again because death does not have dominion, or power or control, over Him. Acts 13:38 tell us that it is through Jesus' resurrection that we can have forgiveness of sins, and 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 reminds us that death is swallowed up in victory, and we can have that victory through Jesus.

### [ THIS ]

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb to see Jesus, the angel told them that He was not there. The angel told them to come in and see where his body had been laid, and then he told them to go and to tell the disciples that he had risen. As they did what the angel had told them, they went away quickly "with fear and great joy." Today, we are given similar commands. We should come and see what Jesus has done in dying for our sins and rising again, and then we should go and tell others that many may come to saving faith in Him.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why should we take seriously the command to "go" once we know that Jesus is alive? What does obedience to this command look like in your life?**

Later on in Matthew 28, Jesus gives His disciples a command to "go and make disciples." He promised that He will be with them, even though just shortly after this He will ascend into heaven. This command matters for us because this is God's plan for how the gospel spreads throughout all of the world. Once we have new life in Jesus, we cannot help but speak about Him, like we see in Acts 4:20.

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1. Revelation 1:18: Jesus died and then He rose to life again. He is alive today and will be alive for always.

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**BIG IDEA #2: JESUS PAID OUR SIN DEBT IN FULL AND OVERCAME DEATH.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Jesus did not just die on the cross because He was hated by the Romans or because He wanted to show off His power. Jesus died because He was the only one who could satisfy the sin debt owed to God by His people. In our sin, we are separated from God and deserving of nothing but death and eternal separation from Him. However, because of His love for us, Jesus came to die so that our sin debt could be paid. In His death, God's wrath toward our sin was satisfied, the price had been paid, and we could be reconciled back to God.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why is it faulty thinking to believe that we can do anything to earn or merit our own salvation?**

Ephesians 2:1 tells us that we are dead in our trespasses and sins. As dead people, we have no ability to make ourselves alive. In Matthew 23:27, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees, telling them that their good deeds make them nothing more than whitewashed tombs: beautiful on the outside, but full of death on the inside. This is true of us when we try to earn our own salvation, or find salvation in other ways. Everything that we do is corrupted by sin, until Jesus makes us alive in Him.

**Why did Jesus have to die in order to pay our sin debt?**

Colossians 2:13-14 tells us that even though we were dead in our sins, it is God who makes us alive together in Jesus who canceled our sin debt, nailing it to the cross. The record of debt against us is gone. Jesus is the only one who could pay this debt, because He is fully God and fully man, yet as Hebrews 4:15 reminds us, He is without sin. God is the only One who is holy, so He is the only One who can satisfy this debt, yet man is the one who owes this debt. Being holy, Christ is the perfect sacrifice needed to make atonement for our sins.

**[ THIS ]**

When Jesus died on the cross, the full amount of our sin debt had been paid. In His death, He made a way for us to be reconciled back to God. However, He must also rise from the dead in order to show that sin and death and the grave have no power over Him. He is better than the sacrifice of animals that Israelites in the Old Testament had to give, because He has power over death. In His resurrection, Jesus proclaims that there is nothing more powerful than He is. He is over all things and in control of all things, even life and death.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why should Jesus' resurrection lead us to trust in Him?**

Acts 26:23 tells us that in His suffering and in His resurrection, Jesus proclaims light to both Jew and Gentile. It is through His resurrection that He delivers us from the darkness of our sin and brings us into His kingdom. It is through Him that we have forgiveness for our sins, as Colossians 1:13-14 remind us. In Jesus' resurrection, we see that He is the One who is all powerful. Nothing can stand against Him.

2. Romans 6:9: Jesus overtook death, defeating the grave when He rose from the dead after His crucifixion. He showed that death and hell have no power over Him.

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## BIG IDEA #3: JESUS GIVES US THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Ephesians 2 tells us that while we are dead in our sins, we are separated from our Father and Creator God. At this time, we have no hope. Yet, in Christ, we who were at one time far off are brought near by His blood. He is our hope. Because we believe that He is alive and He gives life to those who are in Him, this gives us hope.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What does it mean to have hope in Jesus?**

Hope in Jesus is different than saying things like, "I hope I get to have pizza for dinner this weekend." In the Bible, hope is more about waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. In Titus 1:2, Paul talks about his life by saying "in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began." The hope that Paul had was based on a promise that God made, and because God never lies, His promises are sure and trustworthy. Having hope in Jesus means that we trust Him above all other things and people.

### [ THIS ]

In Jesus, not only do we have hope, but we have hope for eternal life. 1 Corinthians 15:19 reminds us that if our hope is only for this life, then Christians should be pitied by all other people. But, because Christ rose from the dead, we have hope not only for this life, but hope for life eternal with God. We can live faithfully and obediently to Jesus because all life is His (Rom 14:8-9). We can live and proclaim Christ with boldness because nothing can take away the eternal life that we have in Him (Heb 13:6; Matt 10:28; Rom 8:35-39).

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How does hope for eternal life inform the way that you live your life today?**

If we hope in Christ, this changes everything about the way that we live. We will not live to ourselves, but will live to God because we know that we have been bought with a price (Rom 14:8; 1 Cor 6:19). We will make Jesus known to those that are around us because God has made Himself known to us (John 15:15). We will cast off idols, reject false gospels, and will stand firm on the gospel because our hope in the gospel is steadfast (Col 1:23).

#### **How can you talk about the hope that you have in Christ with others?**

We talk about the things that we love, treasure, and value. We regularly talk about the things that we are excited about. Too often, however, we do not rightly love and treasure Jesus. When we work to cultivate a healthy abiding relationship with Christ, we will more naturally talk about Him. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always be prepared to give a defense for our hope. We should live our lives in such a way that our hope is noticeable, which means that we will not keep it silent and to ourselves, but we will share it freely with others.

3. 1 Peter 1:3: We can live with great expectation of eternal life because Jesus was resurrected. His resurrection brings us hope.