

# Jesus Is Alive!

**Lesson 32a — Easter**

**Lesson 32b — On the Way to Emmaus**

**Lesson 32c — Doubting Thomas**

**Lesson 32d — Jesus Will Come Again!**

## OVERVIEW

The Easter miracle is the heart of the Christian faith, and the basis for our belief that we, too, will someday be resurrected. This month's unit focuses on the miracle of the risen Christ, tracing the events from His resurrection until His return to Heaven.

In conjunction with the special seasonal activities no doubt planned for this Sunday, the celebration spirit of Easter should be the theme of your first lesson. It stands in direct contrast to the events studied on the previous Sunday. Help your students understand how the sorrow over Jesus' death was changed to joy when those who visited His tomb discovered that He had indeed risen from the dead.

On the second Sunday, one of the notable events following the resurrection of Jesus is studied — His appearance to two men who were walking on the road to Emmaus. The story of how they recognized Him as He broke bread with them should lead into a discussion of

how Jesus reveals Himself to us. Your students should learn that Jesus can be very real to them too.

The focus on the third lesson in this series is on the blessings of believing. The text uses the example of Thomas who doubted the resurrection of Jesus because he had not been present the night Jesus appeared to His disciples. Emphasize that Jesus said we would be blessed if we believe, even though we have not seen Him in the flesh. Your students should understand that this promise is for them too.

Forty days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, after having been seen by many witnesses, He ascended into Heaven. This is the topic of our concluding lesson for the unit. As you describe how He left this earth in a cloud, help your students realize that someday He will come back again in the same manner. Conclude your lesson and the unit's material by talking about the necessity of being ready for His return.

## SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS UNIT

Refer to Units 7 and 20 for additional ideas concerning the lessons in this unit. Although the specific lesson objectives may be different, the patterns provided and activities suggested will be applicable in many cases.

## GAMES FOR REVIEW

Enlarge the figures of the boy and girl speaking (see Patterns) and mount on the two sides of a large board. Write your questions on speech balloons of an appropriate size for the figures. Write the Bible texts which answer the questions on separate pieces of paper. On a different board, tape these pieces of paper. Divide your group into two teams. Post a speech balloon question coming from one of the figures. The first team to determine which Bible verse is the correct answer may go and take that slip of paper and attach it under

the question. The complete verse should then be read aloud. Keep score, and when all of the questions have been answered, the team with the most points wins.

Use overhead transparencies to help your group review the memory verses for this month. Write the verses on the transparency and cut apart into pieces. (You may wish to deal with just one verse at a time.) Mix up the pieces on the overhead for rearranging. Another possibility is to put the words in order but leave out key words to be filled in. Or words can be taken away one by one until the students are reciting from memory.

## CONTEST IDEAS

Make a copy of the "Road to Emmaus Contest" pattern for each child (see Patterns). Each Sunday place a "footprint" on succeeding spaces, as the child earns the footprints. Footprints are earned by coming to Sunday

school, bringing Bible, saying memory verse, etc. (Footprints may be cut out from the pattern and glued on, or they may be drawn on the space.) Continue the contest until every child has reached the goal, Emmaus. Each child should get a prize, but the first arrival should be given a special prize.

Explain to your group (class or departmental project) that your goal for the month is to make a long Easter chain. Each loop will represent a specific behavior or accomplishment. Cut loops from pastel colors, and on each loop write what must be done to earn that loop. For instance: a pale blue loop for attendance, pale pink for bringing Bible, pale green for knowing memory verse. Hang the lengthening chains from your ceiling or drape them across a platform area. If there is a special behavior that you especially wish to emphasize, attach a paper flower to the chain for those who do that.

With this Spring Bunny Contest, challenge each child to come regularly, memorize Bible verses, bring his Bible, and bring friends. Cut out a rabbit for each child (see Patterns) and let him put his name on it. Put a numbered trail on your bulletin board with these words: "How Far Can You Hop?" Each time a child does one of the behaviors, let him move his rabbit along the trail one space.

## BULLETIN BOARDS

Draw a large cross at the center of the board with a wide-tip brown marker. In each corner place a symbol of one week's lesson. In one corner use a construction paper tomb; in another use three flannelgraph figures to symbolize the "Road to Emmaus"; in another use a plastic or rubber glove to symbolize the hand of Jesus; in another use cotton fiberfill to symbolize the clouds Jesus went to Heaven in (let the children help you glue it on). Decorate borders; use clusters of bright artificial flowers at corners to brighten the board.

Create an Easter bulletin board using paper Easter lilies (see Patterns). For each lily, cut a white 5" square of paper and round off the corners. Overlap the edges about 1/4" and glue together to form a cone shape. Paste a yellow strip of paper about 1" wide and 4" long in the cone to make the stamen of the lily. Cut stems and leaves from green construction paper. Arrange these in the left corner of your board on a blue background. On the right side, cut out letters spelling a favorite Easter verse or message such as "He Is Risen!" In the upper right-hand corner, attach a large, colorful butterfly.

Cover your board with light-blue paper. Across the top in large letters place the words, JESUS WILL COME

AGAIN. Underneath, in smaller letters, put "Are you ready?" Put a large figure of Jesus near the top of your board (see Patterns). Cut clouds from fluffy white batting material, and glue around the figure of Jesus. Across the bottom of your board, make low hills from green paper. Let your students make figures from chenille wires. Shape a 9" piece in the middle to form a round, flat head. Twist the wire for about an inch to form the body. Bend ends to form legs and feet. Twist a shorter piece of chenille wire around the body twice and shape arms and hands (see Patterns). Glue round circles for faces on back. Hats or hair cut from construction paper could also be glued on. Draw in features, and attach figures to the hill on the bottom of the board. Be sure some of them appear to be looking up at Jesus!

## CHART IDEAS

Make a puzzle chart for your students using the "Jesus Is Alive" poster (see Patterns). Color and laminate one poster for each child or cover with clear plastic contact paper. Decide what activities will be recorded for this month: attendance, bringing Bible, knowing verse, etc. Cut the poster into pieces, making as many pieces as there are total possibilities. Each week give your students the number of pieces he earned for that Sunday. At the end of the unit, those two who have completed their puzzle should receive a prize.

On the first Sunday of this unit, give each of your children a piece of light-green construction paper on which you have written the words, "Look! Jesus Is Alive!" (see Patterns). On each Sunday, let them attach a shape on which they have printed the memory verse of the week. (The shapes are: a tree, a butterfly, a squirrel, and a flower.)

Make a picture wheel chart showing the main events covered in this unit's stories (see Patterns). On the first Sunday, give children the base marked into four quarters and the first picture to color and glue on. On subsequent Sundays, let them attach the other sections. On the last Sunday, give them the 3/4 top circle and help them attach it to the base with a fastener.

## SUPPORT MATERIAL

Family Life Institute Series of cassette tapes — Number 60

Life of Christ, Volume 4 — Biblegram, CEF Press  
Jesus' Death and Resurrection — Classroom Coloring Activities (4 each of 6 coloring and activity pages), Rainbow Books

Stories of Jesus Activity Book — Level One, ages 3-8, Warner Press