



Themes:

- Jesus paid the full penalty for sin
- God's righteousness was satisfied
- Jesus is all-powerful even over sin and death
- Jesus rose from the dead as proof of His victory
- Jesus makes His friends right with God
- Jesus gives eternal life to all who trust in Him

Scripture:

Matthew 27:57-66; 28:1-10

Memory verse:

Jesus said, *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.* John 11:25

Materials and Visuals:

Lesson:

Cross with *hearts and *Death sign attached (from previous lesson)

Ten pennies and a small treat or prize item

Paid sign (Resource Pack: 35 A)

***Eternal Life sign (Resource Pack: 35 B)**

Strips of white cloth

***Save these visuals for future lessons**

Background Information for the Teacher:

Two thousand years after His death on the cross, the controversy over the resurrection of Jesus still rages. Skeptics find it unbelievable. Some "professing" Christians find it an unnecessary doctrine and ignore it. But Paul argues that if there is no resurrection, then we are all fools and our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:12-14). The resurrection of Jesus is as sure as His death. That Jesus was raised from the dead is God's stamp of satisfaction of His sacrifice on the cross. The penalty for sin is fully paid by the Lamb of God and His perfect righteousness is imputed to us. And what good is a paid penalty without the great reward that it intended to buy? Jesus bought everlasting, ever-increasing joy in the presence of God for His friends. Jesus' resurrection is the proof that Jesus had truly finished the job He had come to do. A believer's sin and death is covered by the righteousness of Jesus.

Lesson Presentation:

Choose a child to come up front. Give the child the pennies (do not reveal how many pennies there are). Show the child the treat or prize item and explain to him/her that they can buy the item from you with the pennies. Ask the children in the class what the child needs to know before he/she can buy the item from you. They need to know what the cost is to see if they have enough money. Comment as follows:

The cost for (item) is exactly ten pennies. But suppose (child's name) gave me only five pennies (have the child count out and give you five pennies). Would that be enough to pay for the (item)? No. Suppose he/she gave me three more pennies (have the child give you three more pennies). Let's see- that's five plus three more- now I have eight pennies. Is that enough? No. The price is exactly ten pennies. Before (child's name) can get the (item) I must get ten pennies.

Explain that the child still needs to give you two pennies. Have the child give you the two remaining pennies. Say thank you to the child and give him/her the Paid sign. Then, have them go sit down without giving him/her the item. Most likely the children will point out that you have forgotten to give the child the item that they paid for. Have the child come back up front. Emphasize that after you have paid the full cost for an item (hold up "Paid" sign) you expect to receive the item you paid for. The paid sign shows that the item rightfully belongs to you. Give the child the item and have them return to their seat.

Point to the cross from last week's lesson. Explain to the children that when Jesus died on the cross, He also paid for something. Point to the red heart and the Death sign on the cross. Demonstrate in the following manner:

Take the red and darkened hearts off of the cross (Be sure to leave the shiny heart attached to the cross). Remove the Death sign and place it with the red and darkened hearts. *The cost of sin is death.* (Romans 6:23). *On the cross, Jesus paid the cost for His sinful friends by receiving all the punishment from God for their sins.* Place the Paid sign on top of the two hearts and Death sign and attach it with a paper clip. *But that is not the end of the story. Because Jesus paid the cost for sin, there is something He gets in return. He paid for something. What do you think Jesus bought with His death on the cross? Do you think He bought a (item bought by child)? Where will we find the answer? Yes, in the Bible!*

STORY: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS Matthew 27:57-66; 28:1-10.
Summarize the story using the actual text where appropriate. Using visuals, such as props or pictures will make the story more concrete and real. Points to emphasize:

-Jesus was really dead. Even His friends believed this to be true. Jesus was buried in a tomb just like any other dead person would be. A big stone was placed in front of the entrance to seal the tomb. There were no other windows or doors to the tomb. *Do you think Jesus' friends were expecting Him to wake up again? No, they thought His was dead.*

-The priests who had wanted Jesus dead were afraid that Jesus' disciples would try to come and steal Jesus' dead body in order to claim that Jesus was alive again. So soldiers were sent to guard the tomb.

-God caused a terrible earthquake as an angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone. *Is a big stone too hard for God to move? No. Could the soldiers guard the tomb against the all powerful God? No! They were terrified.*

-When Jesus friends, Mary and Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, they saw the angel. The angel had great news for them!

Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.

-The women went in and saw that the tomb was really empty. The angel commanded the women to go back and tell Jesus' other friends the great news. They were still afraid from meeting an angel and yet filled with joy at the news.

NOTES

-On their way, they met Jesus. *Was it really Him? Was it just a vision- like a ghost? They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him.* Jesus was real. Jesus was really alive! He had been dead and now He is alive!

Explain to the children that when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for sin (hold up the Paid sign with the hearts attached) and bought something. Jesus paid the full price for sin and because He had perfectly obeyed God (point to the shiny heart on the cross), Jesus came alive again (remove the shiny heart from the cross and attach it to the Eternal Life sign). Jesus bought eternal life.

Remind the children that in the previous lesson Jesus took away something from His friends: sinful hearts and death. Hold up the shiny heart and Eternal Life sign. Now Jesus has a gift for His friends: a new heart and eternal life (give a child the shiny heart and eternal life sign). Jesus had finished the job that He came to do. Jesus bought eternal life for His friends so that they could enjoy God forever. And eternal life with God is the greatest gift Jesus could ever give us!

Additional Activities:

-Classroom Poster Part 2: Before class, remove the darkened hearts from the large red heart envelope from last week's activity. Insert an appropriate number of shiny heart into the envelope. Have the children help make and decorate an empty tomb poster (use the workbook page as a model). Have the children go, one by one, and take out one of the hearts in the red heart envelope. Are the hearts the same as the ones that they put in last week? What has changed? Emphasize that Jesus gives His righteousness to sinners who trust in Him, in place of our sin. Have the children glue the shiny hearts inside the empty tomb. Review today's memory verse.