WEEK 8: JESUS IS …. THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

AIM: To show that Jesus always brings life to those who believe in Him. That even when the Christian’s body dies, their true self, their spirit, lives forever with God. The children need to fully understand that the body is like a house, a covering for the spirit (which is invisible) to live in.

OPENING ACTIVITY: CHOOSE YOUR LIFESAVER.
You will need: a dollar coin, a bottle of medicine, a picture of a family, a cross—put them all in a box.

In this box are four lifesavers. Each one is a symbol of something many people use as a lifesaver. I am going to explain each one to you and ask you to choose the lifesaver you want.

The first is a dollar coin. Of course, one dollar won’t save you, but it is used as a symbol for all money. Money could save your life many times. If you were hungry, it would buy food. If you were cold, it would buy clothing and a place to live. If you were in a dangerous place, it could buy you a ride to safety.

There are two problems in using money as a lifesaver. The first and less important is that there are things that it can’t buy. If there is no food, money will do no good. The same is true of everything that you normally buy with money. Then there are some things that can’t be bought with money. One of them is life itself.

Another lifesaver is a bottle of medicine. Again, it is a symbol for all the medical devices available to us. The lives of many of us have been saved by operations, vaccinations or medicine. In each of these cases our lives were saved for awhile. Like money, it may be a life-prolonger but not a life-saver. Even the healthy people eventually die.

This picture, the third lifesaver, is a symbol for family and friends, the ones who love you. They are lifesavers because they give you a reason for living and because they would do anything they could for you. They would give you money if you needed it. Some loved ones would even risk their life to save yours. But they still can’t save your life every time you need a lifesaver.
The Cross is the fourth of our symbols of lifesavers. It reminds us that Jesus Christ died for us and that He rose again from the dead. He had already shown that His victory over death was not just a personal victory for Him. It was a victory He shared with all people. He proved that even before His death, by showing His power over death. You and I will share in the new life that Jesus won on the cross. One day He will give us a new body that will never die, but will live forever with Him. Christ is the only Lifesaver without limitations. He is the Lifesaver who will take us from this life to an even greater life in heaven. He has chosen to be our Lifesaver. (Please note: this object lesson may need to be modified especially for young children.)

MEMORY VERSE:

JOHN 11:25 Jesus said, “I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again.”

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION: Tomb shape

STORY: LAZARUS RESURRECTED (John 11:1-45)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus loved the family at Bethany—Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
2. Lazarus became sick and his sisters sent a message to Jesus.
3. Jesus did not hurry to Lazarus, but waited some days before going to the village.
4. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead even though no one told him.
5. When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead and in the tomb for four days.
6. Martha met Jesus and told him that if he had come sooner, then Lazarus wouldn’t have died.
7. Jesus told her to trust him and believe that he had power over death.
8. When Jesus approached the tomb, he cried.
9. The stone was rolled away and Jesus prayed to his heavenly Father.
10. Jesus shouted to Lazarus and he came back to life. Lazarus came out of the tomb with his grave bandages wrapped around him.
11. The people who were watching were amazed and many believed in Jesus.

Link this story with the fact that when a Christian’s body dies, their spirit lives on with God and one day he will give us all a new body that will live forever.

QUIZ:

As re-enforcement or a means of positive feedback, you may like to ask the children the following questions:
A. Why did Jesus love Mary, Martha and Lazarus? (Because they were his friends)
B. Why did they send for Jesus when Lazarus became sick? (Because they believed that Jesus could heal sickness; they had probably seen him heal other people. Refer Lesson 8, Jesus is the Healer).
C. How did Jesus know Lazarus was already dead? (Because he knows all things.)
D. Why did Jesus wait until Lazarus died before going to him? (Because he wanted to show that he had power over all things, even death, and so that people would give glory to God.)
E. Why did Jesus tell Martha and Mary to just believe? (Because Jesus works in response to faith.)
F. Why did Jesus cry? (Because he truly loved his friend, Lazarus).
G. How would you feel if you were there and saw what happened?
Fold on dotted line to make a card
Angel Picture

He is risen!
Materials
- Angel Picture
- tempera paint in gray, brown and green
- course sand or bird grit
- yarn
- paper clips
- mixing bowl
- measuring cups and spoons
- mixing spoon

For each child—
- two sturdy, large paper plates
- one paper fastener

Standard Supplies
- photocopier
- copier paper
- lightweight cardboard
- crayons
- glue
- paintbrushes
- scissors
- hole punch
- shallow containers
- ruler
- newspaper

Preparation: Cut out center of plate slightly smaller than the size of Angel Picture (sketch a)—one plate for each child. Cut cardboard into circles or stone shapes the same size as Angel Picture—one for each child. With hole punch, punch one hole close to the edge of each cardboard shape. Photocopy Angel Picture onto paper—one for each child. Cut yarn into 6-inch (15-cm) lengths—one for each child. Make textured paint by mixing in bowl 2 cups of gray paint, \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup of grit or sand and 4 tablespoons of white glue. Cover work area with newspaper. Pour textured paint into shallow containers. Pour brown and green paint into shallow containers.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:
- Paint the underside of cut plate brown for a cave and green for grass (sketch b).
- Paint one side of cardboard circle with gray textured paint. Set aside to dry.
- Use crayons to color Angel Picture.
- Cut out picture and glue to front center of uncut plate.
- Once painted paper plate is dry, with teacher’s help, punch two holes in the cut-out paper plate as indicated in sketch c. Punch a hole at the top of uncut plate.
- Line up the holes at the top of paper plates and glue the rims of plates together. The Angel Picture will show through the cut-out paper plate. Have teacher paper clip edges until glue has dried (sketch d).
- With teacher’s help, attach the painted “stone” to the top paper plate with a paper fastener (sketch d).
- Thread yarn through hole at top of plates and tie for a hanger.
- Cover the opening with the stone; then roll it away to see the angel tell the happy news that Jesus is risen!

Enrichment Ideas: Children may glue dried flowers and greenery onto grass portion of paper plate.

Bible Bits: What did the angel tell Jesus’ friends when they saw the empty tomb? (Jesus is alive. He is risen.) Jesus’ friends were very happy. We can be happy that Jesus is alive, too. We can pray to Jesus anytime. We can talk to Him when we are afraid, sad or happy. Jesus loves and cares for us.
Jesus Christ began life as a human baby when He came from heaven to earth. He lived on earth for about 33 years and His only purpose was to tell everyone about God's Kingdom — that He wanted everyone to go there. They only had to r_ _ _ _ _ of their sins and believe that He was the Son of God who loved them. He d_ _ _ for our s_ _ _ and r_ _ _ _ _ _ again. He is our life s_ _ _ _. When the believer's body dies and goes back to the dust it came from, the spirit lives forever in heaven with J_ _ _ _ _.

People put trust in other things, like money and possessions. They are false g_ _ _ _. They can't save our lives, not even loving families can save us. When we get sick, doctors, medicine and operations might prolong life, but they won't save our lives forever.

Only Jesus C_ _ _ _ _, God the Son, who gave us life, can save our lives. When He comes again to take believers home with Him to h_ _ _ _ _ _, He will give us a new body that will live f_ _ _ _ _.
JESUS is ...The RESURRECTION and the LIFE

Read the story of Lazarus in John 11:1-45, and write a sentence to describe the picture.
Read the story and finish the sentences.

Jesus' friend, Lazarus, was very ill. Mary and Martha ______________ but __________
________________ ____________

When Jesus arrived, Martha rushed out to meet Him and said, “______________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
Jesus said, “______________
______________________________________________

Jesus explained that whoever believes that He is The Christ, God's Son, will have eternal life. He said, I am the R______________________ and the L ________.

Jesus went to the grave and prayed. He said, “Take the stone away.” He commanded, “Lazarus, ______________!” Immediately, Lazarus walked out of the tomb. Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Many people believed in Jesus.