

Answers Bible Curriculum

#2

# Easter Lesson



Pre-K-  
Grade I

ESV

**Answers Bible Curriculum** was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God's Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed Answers Bible Curriculum. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

- We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.
- God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.
- The Bible presents true history.
- We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.
- God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.

- We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.

- We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.

Answers Bible Curriculum is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to complete it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same scriptures each week

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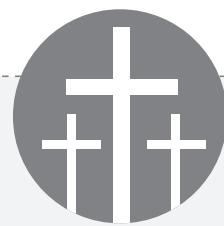
Answers Bible Curriculum

Pre-K-Grade 1 Teacher

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# Discerning the Truth

*The Bible gives infallible evidence that Jesus rose from the dead.*

## Lesson Focus

The accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection are foundational to the gospel message. Although skeptics may try to deny these events, no theory can account for the facts found in God's Word that Jesus died, rose from the dead, and appeared to many witnesses to confirm what happened.

## Key Passages

John 19:30, 20:26–28; Matthew 28:1–4, 28:6 & 9

## Memory Verse

**Matthew 28:6** He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

# Lesson Preparation



## Come On In

Choose a Come On In activity and gather necessary items.

- Memory Verse Egg Hunt       Empty Tomb Dot to Dot\*



## Lesson Time

Print one copy of the Lesson Poster.

Bring the following:

- Four plastic Easter eggs  
 Easter basket or gift bag
- Four different small objects for each egg (see Introduction)



## Review Game—Easter Basket Toss

See the Review Game section for instructions.

Print the Review Questions.

Gather the following items:

- Two large plastic Easter eggs, small stuffed animals, or beanbags
- Three large Easter baskets or laundry baskets
- Masking tape
- Three pieces of paper



## Story Time

Print one copy of the Justin & Jessie story and the picture to show as well as a coloring sheet for each student.



## Song Time

Practice this song using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of the lesson.

- "Tell the Gospel News"



## Go to Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the accuracy and trustworthiness of your Word. The Gospels all record Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection because these events are central to the gospel. We serve a risen Savior! Please use this lesson to help my students see that they can always trust your Word over man's ideas. Strengthen their faith or open their eyes to their need for salvation.

# Optional Supplements

## Hands-On Activities

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Risen! Door Hanger  
Students will decorate a door hanger using colored sand.
- Roll the Stone Relay\*  
Students will race in teams to bat balloons across the room and back.
- Coloring Sheet\*  
Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes.

Suggestions with an asterisk (\*) are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The central focus of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. It was this pivotal moment in history, when Jesus conquered death and the grave, that gives humanity hope for all eternity if only they will repent and trust in Christ for salvation. The resurrection is central to Christianity (1 Corinthians 15:12–19), and it happened in real time and history. Paul speaks with all surety and confidence when he says, “Christ has been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). He grounds this in both the revelation of the Scriptures (verses 3–4), the testimony of those who had seen him (verses 5–8), and the historicity of Adam and the entrance of death into creation (verses 21–22). Because of Christ’s triumphant resurrection from the dead, we can have full confidence in the coming resurrection of the dead when we, in resurrected bodies, will dwell with Christ for eternity (1 Corinthians 15:35–49).

Christians can have the utmost confidence in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus since God’s Word accurately tells us about these historical events. These central truths of the Christian faith were also witnessed by hundreds of people.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Jesus himself mentioned in the account of the rich man and Lazarus that unbelievers will not be convinced even though one would rise from the dead (Luke 16:31). Belief in Jesus Christ comes through the witness of Scripture and the illumination of the Holy Spirit and not from convincing arguments. To believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he bore God’s wrath for sin on the cross, and that he rose victorious over death requires more than a convincing argument or intellectual agreement of historical facts. The Apostle Paul knew this and witnessed it frequently as he traveled and shared the good news of Jesus Christ. He spoke to many and was only too aware that the message of the cross was foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved, that message is the power of God for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Jesus was publicly executed on a cross (Matthew 27:32–50), buried in Joseph’s tomb (Mark 15:42–47), and seen alive again by more than 500 people at the same time (1 Corinthians 15:6).

The resurrection showed clearly that Jesus Christ had the power to destroy death—the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). This realization made the enemies of God shudder at the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. But what could they do now that Jesus was alive again? The only thing they could do was seek to discredit the resurrection. And that they quickly did. The Bible tells us that the chief priests and elders paid a large sum of money to the soldiers who had been guarding the tomb to fund the lie that Jesus’ disciples had stolen the body of Jesus while the guards slept (Matthew 28:11–15). From that first week after his death even to this day, those who refuse to submit to the lordship of Christ have invented many arguments to try and explain away the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

While the Bible speaks of Jesus showing himself by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3), we must acknowledge that we do not have tangible access to those proofs today. But what we have is the record of all these things and more in the inspired, inerrant Word of God. We can trust all of God’s Word, including the accounts of the resurrection.

Ever since Jesus rose from the dead, skeptics have concocted various proposals attempting to explain away the truth of the resurrection. For example, it has been claimed that the person on the cross was not Jesus. Muslims often claim that Judas took Jesus’ place on the cross and Jesus was instead taken to heaven (Quran 4:157–158). Consequently, if Jesus never died, he was surely never resurrected. But even the text of the Quran is self-refuting since it claims that the Jews were boasting that they killed the Messiah.

The Gospel of Barnabas claimed that Judas appeared, and the disciples thought it was Jesus. However, this work is considered a false gospel (*pseudepigrapha*), and the earliest manuscripts are from the 1500s. While some did not recognize Jesus after the resurrection, the Bible makes it clear that he appeared to many.

Another common rejection is to either deny that Jesus ever existed or to say the teachings on the resurrection were developed later as mythical components of the Christian teachings. But this explanation is problematic because there is no serious scholar who rejects that Jesus actually existed (though they reject he is God), and the manuscript evidence does not support such a claim, with the resurrection being described in the earliest of writings from the church fathers. Another claim by skeptics is that Jesus just appeared to die on the cross, so there really wasn't a resurrection, just a reviving of a wounded man. But Jesus was scourged, hung on a cross for six hours, had a spear thrust into his side, was buried in a tomb behind a giant rock, and then walked out of the tomb a few days later, not looking any worse for the wear, and convinced his disciples that he was the resurrected Lord of glory.

Other ideas such as a mass hallucination, a séance, an apparition or spirit appearing to the disciples, and even alien visitations are all attempts to suppress the truth of the resurrection and the lordship of Christ.

These dismissals of God's Word should be addressed. Often, the objections are not difficult to answer if we are prepared and familiar with the different opinions we may be confronted with. However, we must keep in mind that in many of these cases, the skeptics will accept a few scraps of evidence for a pagan god and will not accept the truthfulness of the Bible. As believers, we should rejoice that God has revealed the truth to those of us who are being saved (1 Corinthians 1:18). And with that divine revelation of the truth comes the privilege and responsibility to open our Bibles and proclaim the truth.



## Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.



## Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Poster, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

- Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

### Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Today let's pray and thank God for all he's done for us.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle, giving all the students a turn to pray when the stuffed animal is passed to them.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll start our lesson.

**K-1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 8 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## K-1st Lesson

### Introduction

Before class, put one small everyday object (e.g., eraser, marble, rubber band) inside each of the four plastic Easter eggs and place them in an Easter basket or gift bag.

We're going to see if we can figure out what is inside each of these four eggs. We'll start by asking questions.

Allow one volunteer to draw an egg from the basket/bag, without opening it. Ask one or two questions about what might be inside. You can be as silly or serious as you like. For example: "What if I told you there's a hippopotamus in this egg?" or "What if I said there's a piece of candy in this egg?" Then ask the key question, "How can we know for sure what is really in this egg?" The answer: by opening it. Allow the student to open the egg and show the class what's inside. Continue with each egg, being sure to ask the key question and give the key answer.

- Have the eggs, with objects inside, ready in a basket/bag.

- ? So why did we use eggs and a basket today? What special day do these things remind us of? Easter.

- ?** We often have fun with eggs and baskets and candy when we celebrate this special holiday. But who knows what is the most exciting thing we remember on Easter? *Allow answers.*

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection. That means Jesus rose from the dead! God's Son came to earth as a baby so he could grow up and die on the cross to save us from our sins. Then he rose again! That means he won over death so we can live with him in heaven.

But what if you heard someone say that they don't think Jesus really died on the cross or rose from the dead?

- ?** *Refer to egg basket.* Hmm. When we wanted to find out for sure what was in these eggs, what did we do? *Opened them. Looked inside.*

That's right. Today, we're going to find out for sure that Jesus really did die and rise from the dead. And we'll do that by opening the Bible. This is God's Word to us, so we know that it's true. God would never lie because he is holy and perfect.

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## ***Proof of Jesus' Death***

Jesus was crucified on a cross to save sinners. His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross, and he was left there to die. It was a slow and very painful death. But some people may say he didn't really die. Let's open up the Bible and find out for sure.

### **John 19:30**

All four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, tell the truth about Jesus' death. I'll read what John says happened there that day in John 19:30. *Read the verse.*

As Jesus hung on the cross, he became thirsty, so the soldiers gave him sour wine to drink.

- ?** Then what did Jesus say? *"It is finished."*

He had finished taking the punishment for our sins.

- ?** What did Jesus give up? *His spirit.*

Because Jesus is God, he could choose the right time to give up his spirit and die. Later, the soldiers who had nailed Jesus to the cross stabbed his side with a spear to make sure Jesus was dead.

John was there at Jesus' crucifixion. He saw how Jesus died and how he was later pierced with a spear. John wrote about other people, like Jesus' mother and friends who were there watching Jesus die. And John also told about the two men who took Jesus body and placed it in a new tomb. When we read what John wrote about these things he saw and heard, it's very clear that Jesus died on the cross and that he was buried.

## ***Proof of Jesus' Resurrection***

Some people say that Jesus was just a good man who died, and that was the end. But it wasn't the end! Something amazing happened on the third day after Jesus' death. How do we know this? Let's open the Bible to Matthew now and find out more.

### **Matthew 28:1–4**

Listen to what happened on the third day. *Read Matthew 28:1–4.*

Two women, both named Mary, were going to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning.

- ?
- But what happened at the tomb? *There was a great earthquake.*
- ?
- What caused the earthquake? Who came from heaven? *An angel of the Lord.*
- ?
- What did the angel do? *Rolled the stone away from the tomb and sat on it.*

The angel looked like lightning, with clothes as white as snow. This must have been an awesome sight because he scared the guards who were there keeping watch.

- ?
- What did the guards do when they saw the angel? *They trembled and became like dead men.*

These tough Roman guards were so afraid that they were shaking and couldn't speak or move—they might have even fainted.

### **Matthew 28:6 & 9**

*Refer to the Memory Verse Poster.* The angel had a very important message for the women. Let's read what he said to them from our memory verse poster. Have students read verse 6 with you.

- ?
- What good news did the angel give the women about Jesus? *Jesus was not there; he had risen! He was alive.*

The angel had rolled away the stone so that the women could see the empty tomb. They were so excited at this news, they ran to tell the disciples, just as the angel told them to do.

But on their way, the women had an even greater surprise. Listen to this! *Read verse 9.*

- ?
- Who met them on the path and said, "Greetings"? *Jesus.*

*Show the Lesson Poster.* Jesus appeared—right there in front of them. Jesus was alive again! The women fell down and worshipped Jesus.

God's Word tells us that Jesus rose from the dead. The women knew it. The angel moved the stone so they could see that Jesus was not there anymore, then they met him on the path!

But what if someone says that the women seeing Jesus was just their imagination, that it didn't really happen? Is that true?

God's Word tells us that when the women told the disciples they had seen Jesus, the disciples didn't believe them at first. But then Jesus appeared to his disciples and let them see where the nails had hurt his hands and where the spear had pierced his side. Jesus spent time with his friends. He ate meals with them to show that he was alive again in a real body; he wasn't just in their imagination.

### John 20:26–28

Let's read about one of these times when Jesus' disciples saw him. Listen to John 20:26–28. *Read the verses.*

- ?
- Who was with the other disciples in the room? *Thomas.*
- Right. Thomas was a disciple, too. But he had not seen Jesus yet, like the others, and he wasn't sure if he could believe that Jesus really rose again.
- ?
- So one evening the disciples were in a room together. Were the doors open? No. *They were closed and locked.*
- ?
- How did Jesus get in if the doors were locked? Did he knock on the door or did he just appear in the room with them? *He just appeared in the room.*
- ?
- What did Jesus show Thomas so that he would believe it was really Jesus? *The wounds in his hands and side.*
- ?
- When Thomas saw that it really was Jesus, what did he call him? "*My Lord and my God!*"

*Show the Lesson Poster.* As soon as Thomas saw proof that Jesus had died and rose again, he worshipped Jesus because he understood that Jesus was God.

The Bible says Jesus stayed for 40 days after his resurrection and spoke to his disciples. He also appeared to many other people. Jesus instructed his followers to tell others about him and everything they had seen and heard; then he went back to heaven.

Some people do not believe that Jesus is God or that he died for their sins and rose again. But the Bible gives us the proof. That's why it's important to open it up and find out from God's Word what really happened for sure. Then we can tell others about Jesus, too!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 11.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

*Before class, put one small everyday object (e.g., eraser, marble, rubber band) inside each of the four plastic Easter eggs and place them in an Easter basket or gift bag.*

We're going to see if we can figure out what is inside of each of these four eggs. We'll start by asking questions.

Allow one volunteer to draw an egg from the basket/bag, without opening it. Ask one or two questions about what might be inside. You can be as silly or serious as you like. For example: "What if I told you there's a hippopotamus in this egg?" or "What if I said there's a piece of candy in this egg?" Then ask the key question, "How can we know for sure what is really in this egg?" The answer: by opening it. Allow the student to open the egg and show the class what's inside. Continue with each egg, being sure to ask the key question and give the key answer.

► Have the eggs, with objects inside, ready in a basket/bag.

- ?
- So why did we use eggs and a basket today? What special day do these things remind us of? *Easter*.
- ?
- We often have fun with eggs and baskets and candy when we celebrate this special holiday. But who knows what is the most exciting thing we remember on Easter? *Allow answers.*

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection. That means Jesus rose from the dead! God's Son came to earth as a baby so he could grow up and die on the cross to save us from our sins. Then he rose again! That means he won over death so we can live with him in heaven.

But what if you heard someone say that they don't think Jesus really died on the cross or rose from the dead?

- ?
- Refer to egg basket.* Hmm. When we wanted to find out for sure what was in these eggs, what did we do? *Opened them. Looked inside.*

That's right. Today, we're going to find out for sure that Jesus really did die and rise from the dead. And we'll do that by opening the Bible. This is God's Word to us, so we know that it's true. God would never lie because he is holy and perfect.

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## ***Proof of Jesus' Death***

Jesus was crucified on a cross to save sinners. That means his hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross, and he was left there to die. But some people may say he didn't really die. Let's open up the Bible and find out for sure.

### ***John 19:30***

The New Testament tells the truth about Jesus' death. I'll read what John says happened there that day in John 19:30. *Read the verse.*

As Jesus hung on the cross, he became thirsty, so the soldiers gave him sour wine to drink.

- ?
- Then what did Jesus say? *"It is finished."*

He had finished taking the punishment for our sins.

- ?
- What did Jesus give up? *His spirit.*

Because Jesus is God, he could choose the right time to give up his spirit and die. Later, the soldiers who had nailed Jesus to the cross stabbed his side with a spear to make sure Jesus was dead.

John saw how Jesus died and how he was later pierced with a spear. He was there, and he wrote about other people, like Jesus' mother and friends who were there, too, watching Jesus die. John also told about the two men who took Jesus body and laid it in a new tomb. So, when we read what John wrote about these things he saw and heard, it's very clear that Jesus did die on the cross and that he was buried.

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## ***Proof of Jesus' Resurrection***

Some people say that Jesus was just a good man who died, and that was the end. But it wasn't the end! Something amazing happened on the third day after Jesus' death. How do we know this? Let's open the Bible to Matthew now and find out more.

### **Matthew 28:1–4**

Listen to what happened on the third day. *Read Matthew 28:1–4.*

- Two women were going to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning. But what happened at the tomb? There was a great what? *Earthquake.*
- What caused the earthquake? Who came from heaven? *An angel of the Lord.*
- What did the angel do? *Rolled the stone away from the tomb and sat on it.*

The angel looked like lightning, with clothes as white as snow. This must have been an awesome sight because he scared the guards who were there keeping watch. These tough Roman guards were so afraid that they were shaking and couldn't speak or move—they might have even fainted.

### **Matthew 28:6**

*Refer to the Memory Verse Poster.* The angel had a very important message for the women. Let's read what he said to them from our memory verse poster. *Have students repeat the verse after you.*

- What good news did the angel give the women about Jesus? *Jesus was not there; he had risen! He was alive.*

The angel had rolled away the stone so the women could see that the tomb was empty. They were so excited at this news—Jesus was alive again! They ran to tell the disciples, just as the angel told them to do.

*Show the Lesson Poster.* But on their way, the women had an even greater surprise. Jesus appeared right there in front of them, and the women fell down and worshipped him.

God's Word tells us that Jesus rose from the dead. The women knew it. The angel moved the stone so they could see that Jesus was not there anymore, and then they met him on the path!

But what if someone says that the women and disciples only imagined that they saw Jesus? Is that true?

God's Word tells us that the disciples didn't believe the women at first, until Jesus appeared to them, too! Jesus showed them the marks from the nails in his hands and where the spear had pierced his side. He ate meals with them so they could see that he wasn't just in their imagination.

One disciple named Thomas had not seen Jesus yet, and he wasn't sure if he could believe that Jesus really rose again. So one evening Jesus came to see him. Now, the doors were locked, but Jesus didn't knock, and he didn't climb in through the window—he just suddenly appeared right there in the room!

*Show the Lesson Poster.* Jesus showed Thomas the marks on his hands and in his side. When Thomas saw all this, he believed that it really was Jesus. Thomas worshipped him because he understood that Jesus was God.

The Bible says Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days after his resurrection. He spoke to his disciples and appeared to many other people. Jesus told his followers to tell others about everything they had seen and heard; then he went back to heaven.

Some people do not believe that Jesus is God or that he died for their sins and rose again. But the Bible gives us the proof. That's why it's important to open it up and find out from God's Word what really happened for sure. Then we can tell others about Jesus, too!

**Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.**



## **Review Game—Easter Basket Toss**

*We encourage you to play the following review game. Students give the correct answer and toss the eggs to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has a different point value.*

### **Materials**

*Review Questions*

*Two large plastic Easter eggs, small stuffed animals, or beanbags*

*Three large Easter baskets or laundry baskets*

*Masking tape*

*Three pieces of paper*

## **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Set the three large Easter baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Use pieces of paper and tape to label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so that the farther away it is, the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on class size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss both Easter eggs/stuffed animals/beanbags into two of the baskets then go to the end of the line. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. If the eggs miss, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Continue until all students have had a turn to toss, repeating questions if necessary.



## **Story Time**

We're going to read a story about a boy named Justin and his friend Jessie. Show the picture as you read the story.

- ?
- What did Justin and Jessie do on Easter that was different than normal?  
*They planted seeds in the garden.*
- ?
- What did the seeds remind them of? *When Jesus was dead and buried (in a tomb).*
- ?
- What did the new plants remind them of? *When Jesus rose again.*

Justin and Jessie learned that God gave us a reminder of Jesus' resurrection in the way seeds, which look dead, can grow into beautiful new plants. When Jesus died, he was placed in a tomb, but he didn't stay there. He came back to life!

Some people don't believe that Jesus died and rose again. But no matter how many wrong ideas people make up, we know Jesus is alive, not only because we can see reminders around us, but also because God's Word says so.



## **Song Time**

Practice the following song using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson. You may want to add stomping, clapping, musical instruments, or make up hand motions.

### **Tell the Gospel News**

Let's sing about how Jesus died for sinners and rose again! Teach the song and sing it a few times.



## Group Prayer Time

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God for the accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection in the Bible.
- Ask God for help to learn more from his Word about his Son, Jesus.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

# **Song Sheet**

## **Tell the Gospel News**

(To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Oh, tell the gospel news,

(*The farmer in the dell,*)

Oh, tell the gospel news:

(*The farmer in the dell,*)

Jesus . . . he is alive!

(*Hi-ho the derry-o!*)

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(*The farmer in the dell.*)

Christ gave his life for us.

He died upon the cross,

So he could conquer sin and death,

And we can be with God!

We are free from sin.

We are free from death.

If we put our hope and trust—

Our hope and trust in him!