Lesson 16 [Chapters 20&21]"The Resurrection"

Remember:

John 18 tells the story of Jesus being arrested in the garden and Judas' betrayal. He was also denied three times by Peter and put on trial before the Jews and then before Pilate who sentenced Him to be crucified. In chapter 19, we covered the events of the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Goal:

St. John mentions the goal of his book in verses 20:30-31, The goal is to provide evidence so that you may believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that by believing, you will find eternal life in His name.

Lesson opener:

The Unbelievable

Divide students into two teams. You'll read a list of statements, and they have to vote as a team whether they believe each of your statements or not. The team with the most correct answers wins.

1. Yogurt is made with bacteria.
2. Your ears help keep you balanced
3. Some animals can get sunburned.
4. No cat likes water.
5. Frogs have to drink lots of water.
6. Elephants eat with their noses.
7. Camels can walk 100 miles in the desert without water.
8. Chimpanzees are nocturnal.
9. The hummingbird egg is the world's smallest bird egg.
10. Jesus was dead for three days but came back to life.

Answer key: T- T -T- F- F-T -T-F-T-T

Explain that today's story is about one of the disciples who didn't believe that Jesus came back from the dead.

OR another game: *Trust Fall :*

Have students pair up. One student stands behind the other. The student in front closes their eyes and falls back, trusting the one behind them to catch them. Then the partners switch roles.

Let each pair try the activity a couple of times, getting more and more comfortable. Then, ask, Was it difficult to have faith that your partner would catch you?

Could you see them behind you when you closed your eyes and let yourself fall back?

That's how much faith God wants us to have in Him. Even though we've never seen Jesus, we need to have faith in Him.

Lesson Body:

Many religions today try to tell us that Jesus was just a good man, a teacher, or just a prophet. But Jesus is much more than that. He is the Messiah, the only Son of God. He is God come in the flesh. Today we will learn that Jesus not only has power over life but also over death. Even the grave could not hold Him.

Chapter 20:

The Empty Tomb 20:1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to complete the burial process. She saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. Jesus conquered death. What do you think was going through Mary's mind? She loved Jesus very much, but now His body was gone.

She ran to Peter and John to tell them that the grave was open and that Jesus' body was gone. She thought that someone had stolen the body. Peter and John ran to the tomb, but John outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He looked inside but did not go inside. Peter arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Anyone who intended to steal the Body would not have stripped the linen clothes from it.

Was Jesus' body stolen or could it really be possible that Jesus did rise again, like He said He would? Jesus conquered death. What a wonderful realization it must have been for Peter and John to understand that their Lord and Savior had risen from the dead!

They went home to tell the other disciples what they had seen.

Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord and He commissions His disciples 20:11-31

Have kids follow the motions to help tell what happened.

Although the angels had already told her and her companions (Luke 24) that Jesus was alive she didn't believe it and was still searching for where Jesus might be [*Pretend to*

search]. Whereas the two disciples hurried back to their fellow disciples, Mary stayed behind, weeping. (*Pretend to cry*.)

As she knelt down and looked inside the tomb, she saw two angels dressed in white. (*Kneel*.) They asked her why she was crying. She told them she didn't know where they had taken Jesus. (*Hold arms up like "I don't know.")* Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought He was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard His voice, she recognized Him. (*Show a surprised face*.) After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!" (*Jump up and down in excitement*.)

The Lord asked her not to touch Him with her hands for He wanted her to reach out to Him with her heart. The Lord wanted her to preach His resurrection and ascension into heaven. He did not arise to establish an earthly kingdom.



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'

The disciples were in the house together with the door locked. How did Jesus come in? He didn't knock the door for them to open.

Jesus can come to be with us wherever we are. He doesn't need to go through doors or windows.

Why would Jesus show them His hands and side?

He was showing them the nail holes in His hands and the hole in His side where the soldier stabbed Him with a spear, so that they would know it was really Him.

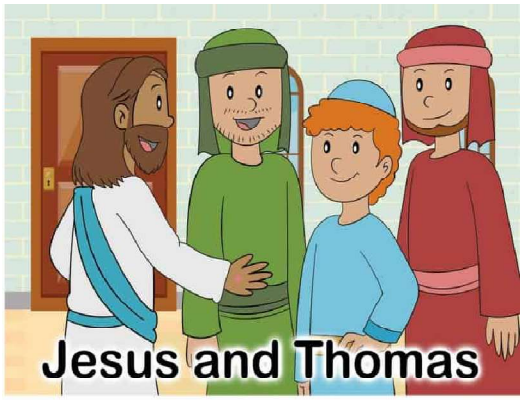
Jesus said, “As the Father sent Me, so I send you.” What did God the Father send Jesus to do? (*God sent Jesus to tell other people about God and to die on the cross so that we could be saved*.)

What is Jesus sending us to do? (*To tell other people about God and Jesus so that they can be saved too.*)

What happened when Jesus breathed on the disciples? (*The Holy Spirit came to live inside them.*)

Jesus Christ gave them authority regarding the forgiveness and retention of sins (John 20:23), which the Church understands as the beginning of the apostolic priestly ministry.

Our Coptic Church is established upon evangelical principles; and her priests are ordained in the Lord Jesus Christ and authorized to baptize and grant absolution for our sins.



After Jesus died, his disciples hid in a locked room because they were scared.

On the day Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to them.

They were so happy to see Jesus alive.

Jesus showed them the wounds in His hands and side so that they would know it was really Him.

1



However, Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them.

The disciples told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead and had seen Him.

But Thomas didn't believe them.

2



Thomas said, "I won't believe unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers in them, and place my hand in the wound in His side."

Eight days later, Jesus appeared to the disciples again.

This time, Thomas was with them.

Jesus told Thomas to touch His wounds and see for himself.

3



Thomas was amazed and declared, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you have seen me.

Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

This means that even if we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can still believe in Him.

4

Chapter 21:

The Lord's appearance by Lake Tiberias 21:1-14

Peter had gone back to being a fisherman, and he was out in his sailboat with a few other disciples. They had fished all night and not had a single fish swim into their nets, and they were tired and hungry.

Jesus came by and told them to try putting their nets on the right side of the boat. When they did, they caught more fish than they could even hold! Peter realized that it was Jesus who was there on the shore, and he jumped out of the boat and swam as fast as he could to Him. Once there, Jesus built a campfire and cooked some fish for breakfast.

For whatever reason, the disciples didn't recognize Jesus right away. Once they understood who was with them, they were thrilled! Not only did Jesus help them catch a bunch of fish, but He also cooked them up to eat. But that isn't the most important part of the story…after breakfast, Jesus had a conversation with Peter➔

Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-25

Peter was getting another chance. He had denied Christ three times, but now he got to affirm his love three times. The Lord wished to console Peter and show him that His repentance had been fully accepted, and that what he had done would not affect the relationship between him and the Lord. The Lord did not ask him about his repentance for having denied Him three times. He was satisfied to ask about Peter's love for Him. Repentance is essentially the practice of loving God.

When He asked Peter to "take care of sheep", He was calling on him to spread the Gospel to others. Peter became a very influential person in early church. He was no longer just a fisherman, but a true fisher of men. God used him in remarkable ways. He shared his faith and proclaimed Christ, even when it later cost him his life.

God can always turn our stories around. Even if we think that we have fallen too far to recover, or we sin and don't think we can ever be forgiven, God wants to use us. He wants to turn our mess into success, and He will, if we let Him!

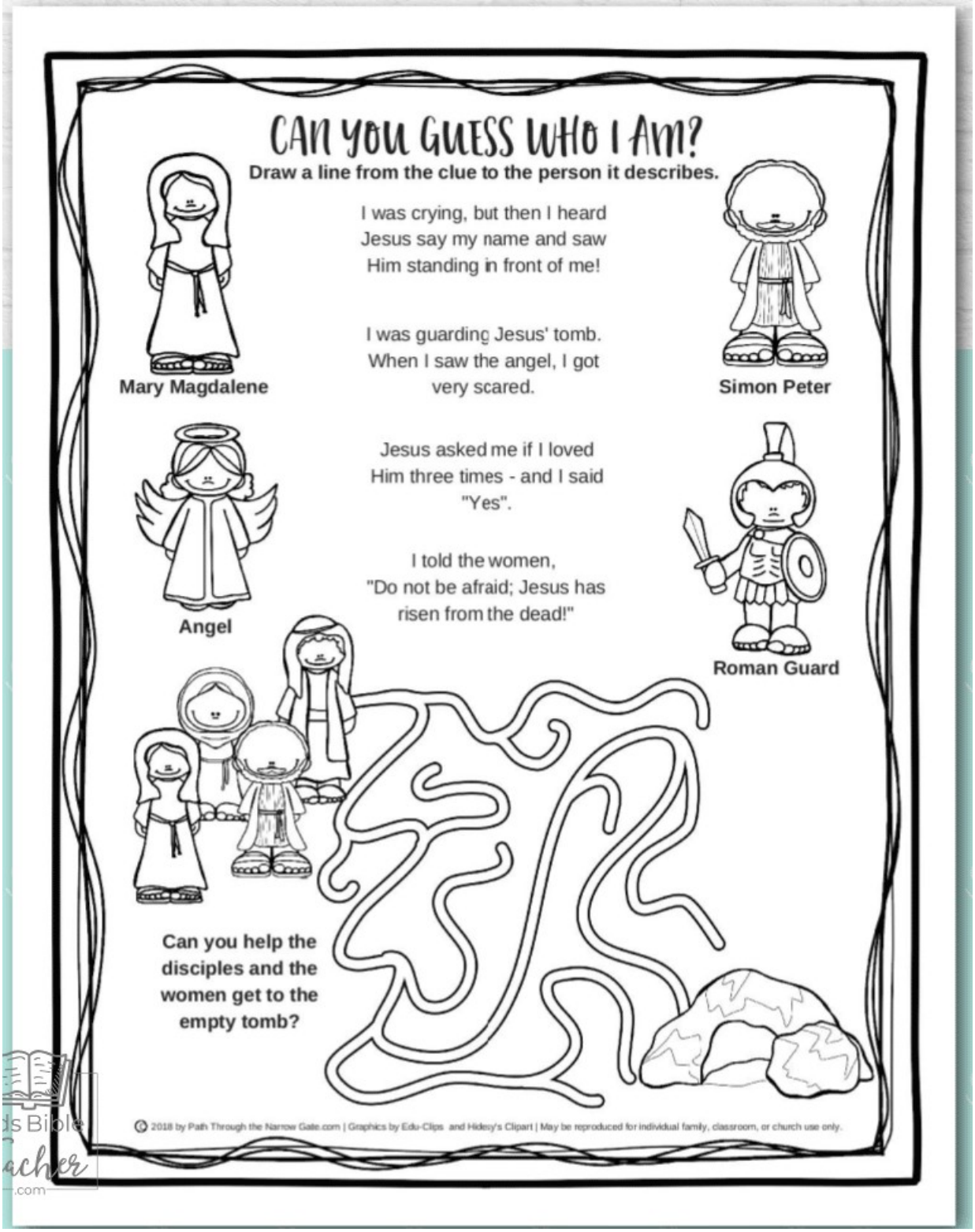
Having restored Peter to his status as an apostle, the Lord went on to inform him concerning his martyrdom. In his youth, he was free to gird himself whenever he wanted, now he submitted himself into the hands of his Savior so that He would gird him and carry him according to His divine will.

Thirty-four years later, Peter was crucified. He had considered himself unworthy to die in the manner of his Master and therefore requested to be hung with his head downwards.

Memory Verse: 20:29 Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Activities:


CAN YOU GUESS WHO I AM?
Draw a line from the clue to the person it describes.
I was crying, but then I heard Jesus say my name and saw Him standing in front of me!
I was guarding Jesus' tomb. When I saw the angel, I got very scared.
Jesus asked me if I loved Him three times - and I said "Yes".
I told the women, "Do not be afraid; Jesus has risen from the dead!"
Mary Magdalene
Simon Peter
Angel
Roman Guard
Can you help the disciples and the women get to the empty tomb?
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Spinning Fish Prayers

The fish symbol is recognised around the world as a symbol for Christians. Because it is an international symbol, we can use the fish symbol to help us pray for different world situations.



Cut some strips of paper - the width of A4 paper is a good length and 1.5 – 2cm wide.

Cut a slit in opposite sides about 2cm in from the end.

This is joined to form a fish shape by interlocking the two slits.

Write your prayers on the strips of paper, thinking about situations where there is fighting or unrest, where people are hungry and there is a need for rain to grow food. It is challenging to see situations around the world and not know what we can do to help, but the one thing we can definitely do is to pray.

Once you have written your prayers, fold over the strips of paper and join them to form a fish shape.

Take the fish shape and hold it as high as you can above your head and then let go. Watch as it spins to the ground. This is a sign of you giving your prayers to God. As the fish reaches the ground, say Amen.



THE END