

# ★ The First Day of the Week

4th - 6th Grade  
Lesson 11

## The Resurrection of Christ

Although Jesus did many things on earth, one thing was more amazing than anything else. In this lesson, we are going to learn what happened when Jesus arose from the grave. In our last lesson, we learned about when Jesus died. We learned about the many things that people did to Him. After He died on the cross, a man named Joseph buried Him in a tomb. Joseph paid a lot of money to have Jesus buried. He wanted to make sure that Jesus' body was going to be safe. He did not want anyone to steal His body or do anything bad to it.

### Devious Priests

*Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.*

—Matthew 27:62-64

The Jewish rulers went to Pilate after Jesus died. They wanted Pilate to order the Roman soldiers to guard Jesus' tomb. The priests remembered that Jesus said He was going to rise from the dead in three days. The priests did not want anyone to take Jesus' body. They did not want anyone to believe that Jesus had done what He said He would do.

The priests were not satisfied with having Jesus killed on the cross. They wanted to make sure that He stayed dead. So they made a plan. They got Roman soldiers to cover the tomb with a big stone. Then, Roman soldiers were supposed to watch the tomb to make sure no one came in—or out. The chief priests thought they had everything under control.

### Dishonest Soldiers

*And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

—Matthew 28:2-6

Even though the priests tried to stop Jesus from coming back from the dead, God was much more powerful than they were. Two ladies came to see Jesus' body. They were bringing perfumes and spices to put on Jesus' body. When they got to the tomb, the stone was rolled away from the door! The Bible says that there was an earthquake, and an angel rolled the stone away from the

tomb. The ladies who came to see Jesus were scared. The angel told them not to be afraid because Jesus had risen. They were very happy!

*Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

—Matthew 28:11-15

The earthquake scared the four Roman soldiers. They were so afraid that they ran away. Some of them ran to the city to tell the Jewish rulers what had happened. The Jewish rulers were angry. They paid the Roman soldiers money to tell people that someone had stolen Jesus' body. They did not want anyone to know that He had risen from the dead.

### **The Death-Defeating Savior**

Even though many people tried to stop Jesus, He rose from the dead just like He said He would! We call this the resurrection. Jesus' resurrection was the most amazing thing that has ever happened. Do you remember when we learned how Jesus' birth was told before He was even born? Jesus' resurrection was spoken of too! God told the prophets that Jesus was going to rise from the dead a long time before He did.

After He arose, many people saw Jesus. They were witnesses that He really did come back from the dead. Satan thought that he had won when Jesus died, but Jesus came back and won the victory over death!

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope. Jesus lives up in Heaven now with His Father. He promises that He is preparing a mansion for every one who trusts Him as Savior. It gives us hope to know that Jesus is waiting for us if we are saved.

### **Conclusion**

We learned about the death of Christ, but His resurrection is even more important than His death. The resurrection proved that Jesus really was God. Jesus' resurrection is an amazing story—a story that we need to tell to others. It is a much happier part of Jesus' life than when He died. We have many songs we sing about Jesus' resurrection—songs like, "He Lives" and "Christ Arose." We sing these songs to celebrate Jesus' amazing victory over death. Isn't it good to know that we serve a risen Savior?