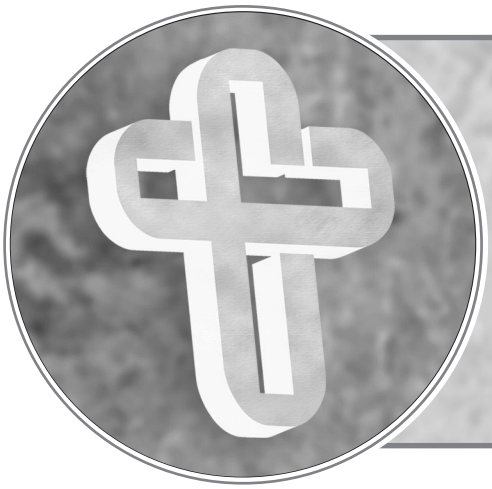


CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 29 2025

resurrection power

Scripture Story: Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapters 80; 81.
Key Text: Matthew 28:2-4.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

This week's lesson focuses on the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and its ramifications for all time. Satan and his evil host engineered the dark events that led to the death of Christ. They exulted at the thought that the efficacy of Christ's sinless life and perfect death would be rendered moot by the sheer power of the grave. But they were wrong.

While Satan saw in the grave his last, best hope for derailing God's plan of redemption, Christ's death left His followers just plain hopeless. Unfallen worlds were likewise transfixed by His death. They were horrified at the death of the One who had spoken them into existence. Had Satan succeeded in his plan to besmirch the character of God? All seemed lost that Friday afternoon at Calvary. But Sunday was on its way!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely indispensable to God's plan of salvation. As you share this week's lesson with your class, make the point that Christ's death on the cross is inextricably linked to His resurrection from the dead. Christ's sinless life met the demands of the law. His death paid the price for sin (Romans 3:23). But His resurrection and ascension meant that the Father had accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. Salvation was not assured until Jesus rose from the grave and returned to the Father.

Additionally, the resurrection of Christ is the linchpin on which hang all our hopes for eternity with God. Without it, as the apostle Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, all our preaching and pronouncements are in vain.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Discover that the resurrection of Jesus meant that Christ had successfully finished His work on earth. *(Know)*
- Be urged to embrace the truth that He who raised Christ from the dead can do the same for them. *(Feel)*
- Seize opportunities to share with others the power of Christ's resurrection. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

Death and Resurrection, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, no. 26: "The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23; 16; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Rev. 20:1-10.)"

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think?

section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.

The objective of this activity is to get students thinking about some of the attitudes and beliefs people generally have about death, based on how it is portrayed in the media.

After the students complete the exercise, ask them to share their responses with the class. More than likely, there will be a combination of answers that best explain our human fascination with death and what happens after death. The point to remember here is that Satan seeks to cloud our understanding about the state of the dead in part because He hopes to undermine our belief in the resurrection of Christ. If we can live on without the power of God, then we do not need the hope of Christ's resurrection.

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

A pastor in a local church recounted the following true story.

"I am not a connoisseur of great art, but from time to time a painting or picture will really speak a clear, strong message to me. Some time ago I saw a picture of an old burned-out mountain shack. All that remained was the chimney, . . . the charred debris of what had been that family's sole possession. In front of this destroyed home stood an old grandfather-looking man dressed only in his underclothes with a small boy clutching a pair of patched overalls. It was evident that the child was crying. Beneath the picture were the words which the artist felt the old man was speaking to the boy. They were simple words, yet they presented a profound theology and philosophy of life. Those words were 'Hush, child, God ain't dead!'

"That vivid picture of that burned-out mountain shack, that old man, the weeping child, and those words 'God ain't dead' keep returning to my mind. Instead of it being a reminder of the despair of life, it has come to be a reminder of hope! I need reminders that there is hope in this world. In the midst of all of life's troubles and failures, I need mental pictures to remind me that all is not lost as long as God is alive and in control of His world" (Willard Aldrich, *When God Was Taken Captive*, p. 24).

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

Everyone needs hope. Every time we hear the story of a rich person attempting suicide, we ought to be reminded that all the money in the world can't buy us hope. If the rich are not safe from the ravages of our difficult world, how much more so the poor?

When life comes in like a flood, we humans can take comfort in the truth knowing that Jesus conquered the grave and that's a reason to rejoice.

Out of the Story *for Teachers*

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them:*

- The *Into the Story* for this week is but one account of the Resurrection story, perhaps the most complete of all the Gospels. Did you notice anything new in this account of the events following Jesus' death? Share any new insights you glean with your class.
- In addition to the theme of hope inherent in Luke's account, the reader is treated to a close-up of grief. Grief can be powerful—so powerful, in fact, that it can blind us to the facts. Explore with your students all of the things that the women at the tomb and Jesus' disciples overlooked because of their sorrow. For one, they forgot that Jesus had predicted His death and resurrection. How can we grieve in a way that does not discard God's promises and pronouncements?
- Another important truth that arises from this biblical narrative is that God will not leave us wandering during times of perplexity and pain. Notice that the angels appeared in response to a sincere search for Jesus. Jeremiah 29:13 makes it clear that we will find the Lord, when we seek Him with all our hearts, as Christ's followers did that day.
- The Gospels also make clear that Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, but there is no accompanying injunction to worship on that day. Make the point that as miraculous as Resurrection Sunday was, God chose not to memorialize it by making it a day of worship. What does this fact tell us about the sanctity of the Seventh-day Sabbath?
- Why didn't the disciples believe the report of Jesus'

resurrection brought to them by the women who had spoken with the angels? What does this tell us about the mind-set of the disciples after the Crucifixion? It should give us pause to think that those who were closest to Jesus while He walked the earth forsook Him in His hour of need, and then refused to believe that He had risen. Could this happen again?

Use the following as other teachable passages that relate to today's story: Mark 16; John 20; 1 Corinthians 15; Romans 4-5.

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

1. **First Things First.** It bears remembering that the fact of Christ's bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-43) preceded all written accounts of that Resurrection. Why is this important to note? C. S. Lewis, Christian apologist and theologian, makes the point in his book *Miracles*:

"The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon report in the Acts. The Resurrection and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christian brought: what we call the 'Gospels,' the narratives of our Lord's life and death, were composed later for the benefit of those who had already accepted the gospel. They were in no sense the basis of Christianity: they were written for those already converted. The miracles of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, come first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. Nothing could be more unhistorical than to pick out selected sayings of Christ from the Gospels and to regard those as the datum and the rest of the New Testament as a construction upon it. The first fact in the history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection" (C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*, pp. 143, 144).

2. **Powerful Symbol.** The resurrection of Jesus is:

- what underscores the truth of Jesus' teachings (Acts 2:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20).
- the heart of the gospel (Romans 4:24, 25; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- the answer for the believer's doubt (Luke 24:38-43).
- why we witness and evangelize (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 10:39-43).
- the key indication of the believer's daily power to live the Christian life (Romans 6:4-14; 8:9-11; Philippians 3:10).
- the reason for the total commitment of our lives (Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58).
- the antidote to the fear of death (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58).
- the example of our resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:2; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The implications of Jesus' resurrection to Christian theology are inexhaustible!

3. **The Backstory.** The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead disquieted many people. The soldiers guarding the tomb were dazed and confused. Mary Magdalene and the other women who came to the tomb met angels and took off running to share the

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite the students to share the key text with the class if they have committed it to memory.
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Desire of Ages. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that speaks most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quote in Further Insight *conveys the point of the story in this lesson.*

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

RABBI 101

Musically Speaking

Music is one of the obsessions of teenagers around the world. It doesn't matter the continent or culture, music unites today's teens. There have been numerous songs written about the resurrection of Jesus.

Consider playing one as a way to introduce or close this week's study. Distribute copies of the words to the students so that they can follow along. Choose a song that captures the hope of the resurrection in a beautiful and thought-provoking way.

good news of Jesus' resurrection with the disciples.

While the soldiers guarding the tomb were knocked senseless by the glory of the angel sent to wake Christ, and the women ran off with the good news, the Jewish leaders who instigated the death of Christ were tormented.

Ellen White writes: "The priests, in putting Christ to death, had made themselves the tools of Satan. Now they were entirely in his power. They were entangled in a snare from which they saw no escape but in continuing their warfare against Christ. When they heard the report of His resurrection, they feared the wrath of the people. They felt that their own lives were in danger. The only hope for them was to prove Christ an impostor by denying that He had risen" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 785).

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

Divide the class into pairs. Give each pair of students a 3" x 5" card and a pencil. Ask each pair to come up with three ways in which they can share the significance of Jesus' resurrection with a friend this week. Encourage the students to think creatively. For instance, how would they go about sharing the good news of the resurrection of Jesus with an online friend? How could they approach the subject with a friend from school?

Ask one or two pairs of students to share their responses, and then ask someone to close with prayer, asking God for wisdom and opportunities to share this important truth with others this week.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

The good news of salvation would have perished in the grave had Jesus not been raised back to life. Jesus Himself declared: "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father" (John 10:17, 18, NIV).

Ellen White writes that when the angel of the Lord spoke to Jesus in Joseph's tomb, "the Saviour came forth from the grave by the life that was in Himself" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 785). Jesus' power over life and death not only assured our salvation, but gave us the blessed hope that like Christ, we too would one day be raised back to life to live in peace with God.

This was the revolutionary message that birthed Christianity, and it remains the heartbeat of the gospel today. No matter what habits bind us or struggles threaten us, Jesus can breathe new life into us. Even if we are forced to taste the brutal cup of death, we are assured that one day Jesus will raise us back to life to live with Him for eternity.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Desire of Ages (*or *Humble Hero*), chapters 80, 81.

Humble Hero is book 3 in a special adaptation of the Conflict of the Ages series, created by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press®. Read more about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books

CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
NOVEMBER292025

STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapters 80; 81.

resurrection power



Photo by Hiskia Missah

keytext

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men."

(Matthew 28:2-4, NIV)

flashlight

"When Jesus was laid in the grave, Satan triumphed. He dared to hope that the Savior would not take up His life again. He claimed the Lord's body, and set his guard about the tomb, seeking to hold Christ a prisoner. He was bitterly angry when his angels fled at the approach of the heavenly messenger. When he saw Christ come forth in triumph, he knew that his kingdom would have an end, and that he must finally die" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 782).

what do you think?

Why are you amazed by Christ's resurrection story? *(Circle one.)*

- Death is the one permanent state from which no one can escape.
- The resurrection of Jesus proclaims victory over sin and death and gives us hope that when Jesus returns our mortal bodies can take on immortality.
- We all want to live again after we die.
- Resurrection at Jesus' coming offers hope and meaning to our mortal lives.

INTO THE STORY

"There was a violent earth-quake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men."

"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."' Then they remembered his words.

"When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened."

(Matthew 28:2-4; Luke 24:1-12, NIV)



did you know?

When the angel of of the Lord spoke to Jesus in Joseph's tomb, "the Saviour came forth from the grave by the life that was in Himself" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 785). Jesus' power over life and death not only assured our salvation, but also gave us the blessed hope that like Christ, we, too, will one day be raised back to life to live in peace with God.

OUT OF THE STORY

Read through the narrative of Jesus' resurrection closely. Try to see it with fresh eyes. Put an *X* by something that was new to you. What hadn't you noticed before?

_____
_____
_____

Why do you think the earth quaked when the angel came to open the tomb of Jesus? What does this tell you about the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

_____
_____
_____

Jesus foretold His resurrection. Why didn't the disciples believe that Jesus had risen when they heard the news?

_____
_____
_____

Many people claim to worship on the first day of the week (Sunday) because Jesus rose on that day. Is there anything in this week's *Out of the Story* that tells us to worship on Sunday as a memorial of Jesus' resurrection?

_____
_____
_____

When the women came seeking Jesus, the angel asked, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Think for a moment. Do people today look for the living among the dead through movies, music, the occult, etc.? Explain.

_____
_____
_____

punch lines

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" **(1 Corinthians 15:14-17, NIV).**

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" **(1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV).**

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die'" **(John 11:25, NIV).**

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" **(Romans 10:9, NIV).**

further insight

"A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall,—this, the result to flow from Christ's completed work, God and angels saw."

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 769

Sabbath

Read Genesis 3:1-4 and Ecclesiastes 9:5.

Now that you've completed the *What Do You Think?* activity, write a sentence below explaining why you chose the answer that you did.

_____
_____
_____

What do the verses in Genesis 3:1-4—specifically verse 4—tell you about why many people are fascinated by the idea of life after death? What do you think Satan meant by "You will not surely die"?

_____
_____
_____

Satan still uses this lie to convince men and women that there is life after death, that we won't "surely" die. But what does the Bible say in Ecclesiastes 9:5? Until God calls people back to life at Jesus' return, the dead are dead.

Sunday

Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-17.

After reading the *Into the Story* section, explain what you think would have happened if Satan and his fallen angels had successfully sealed off Joseph's tomb, preventing Jesus from rising again.

_____
_____
_____

In rising from the dead, Jesus broke Satan's power over all created things—forever!

Monday

Read Matthew 28:2-4.

This Sabbath's *Key Text* is essential to understanding the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for sin. Think about it. Did Matthew really need to record that the angel sent from heaven to open the tomb of Jesus caused an earthquake when he landed on earth? Wasn't Jesus' resurrection fireworks enough? What's with the "special effects"?

Read Matthew 27:45-53. What happened in nature on the day that Jesus was crucified?

_____
_____
_____

Jesus' disciples grieved His death at Calvary, but they were not alone. All of heaven yearned to see Jesus raised back to life. And when the signal was given, the angel of God left heaven like a bolt of lightning!

Tuesday

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

This week's *Flashlight* quotation from Ellen White opens a window into Satan's devious machinations. Satan never would have tempted Jesus as powerfully as he did if he had not known that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Kill the Savior, and the world dies.

Satan became the "accuser in chief" of all humanity, constantly accusing us of breaking God's law. Since Jesus' sinless life met the demands of God's law, and His perfect death paid the price for all our sins, Satan's last hope to prevent the salvation of humanity was to prevent Jesus from ever rising again. The Resurrection made Christ's life and death effectual for us.

Wednesday

This week's *Punch Lines* texts begin with perhaps the most important verse in all of Scripture. To whom was Jesus speaking when He stated that He was the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)? What was the event that led Jesus to make this startling statement?

Notice how closely Romans 10:9 ties belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ to salvation. Can you be saved if you do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? Explain your answer.

_____
_____
_____

Jesus' resurrection is our hope for the future!

Thursday

Read John 11:25 and 1 Corinthians 15:55.

What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you? Do you ever think about it during the day? When was the last time that you got into a discussion about it?

To believe in the Resurrection is to believe that God has power over life and death—over *your* life and over *your* death. If God is controlling your life, should you be afraid of anything?

List two fears that you would like to turn over to God right now.

_____
_____
_____

Friday

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

The life that Jesus lived fulfilled the demands of God's perfect law, the law that Adam and Eve broke when they sinned. The death that Christ died paid the price for Adam and Eve's sin and the sins of the entire world.

Together they give us the assurance that we are saved. Together they are "the good news" of salvation.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages or (*Humble Hero*), chapters 80; 81.

*A special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*, entitled *Humble Hero*, has been created just for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net. By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.