

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 1 Jesus—Foretold in the Old Testament

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who trust in God’s Word since it is 100% reliable.

Reading Reference: Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-2

Memory Verse: The grass withers and the flower fades, / But the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

Story Sample

We have spent quite a while in the Old Testament stories. Now we come to the New Testament. Who is the first Person we should hear about in the New Testament? *[Jesus]* That is right! The first four books in the New Testament are known as the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In these books, we see how Jesus lived and what He did. These four books of the Bible could be considered as His biography. They are all accounts of the life of Jesus. But did you know, that in every book of the New Testament you can find out something more about Jesus? In all twenty-seven books of the New Testament, you can discover something about Him!

Who can tell us some of the stories we heard from the Old Testament? *[Have different ones answer.]* Yes, those were some of them. Did we hear any stories about Jesus in the Old Testament? NO!! Why not? *[Let them answer.]* Yes, the Old Testament with its thirty-nine books was written a LONG time before Jesus was born. Most of it was written hundreds of years before He was even born. So, maybe you’d be surprised that there is quite a bit there about Him. To start our story about Jesus we have to go back to the Old Testament. That is surprising, isn’t it? But we know that the Bible is God’s Word. In the Bible, we can find out about God and what He intends to do so really it makes perfect sense that there would be all kinds of things about Jesus from beginning to end.

Today we have two verses from the Old Testament that tell us things about Jesus in the New Testament. Micah 5:2 tells us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. *[Read Micah 5:2.]* Then in Matthew 2:1 we see that Jesus WAS born in Bethlehem! *[Read Matthew 2:1.]* Now if your parents live in Anaheim it is no big thing to guess that all their children will be born in Anaheim, but Mary and Joseph were not living in Bethlehem when Jesus was to be born. How could someone named Micah, who lived hundreds of years before Jesus, write down where He was to be born? Well, it is because the Bible is the Word of God. God knew where Jesus was to be born. Jesus was so important to Him that He told those in the Old Testament many things about Him beforehand.

The Old Testament also tells us that He will have a Star! Remember the story where the magi (those are wise men) from the East followed a Star? *[Read Numbers 24:17.]* Well, that Jesus would have His Star shining brightly in the heavens was foretold in the Old Testament hundreds of years before it happened. *[Read Matthew 2:2.]*

Just these two examples show us that we can trust God’s Word! If it is in the Bible, then it is true. You know, when I was growing up, I thought that science could be trusted 100%. But really, science changes. Here is an example. When I was growing up, if a teacher asked you to name the planets, you would say, “Earth, Neptune, Uranus, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Mercury, Jupiter, and Pluto”. There were nine planets. Everyone knew that there were nine planets because that is what the science books said. But then when I was an adult it suddenly changed. Now there are only eight planets. Pluto is not a planet anymore. *[Storyteller, use your own personal story of how science cannot be trusted.]*

Well, the Bible is not like that. It does not change. Everything written in it is true and can be trusted 100%. Everything promised or foretold in the Bible has been or will be fulfilled. So many things about Jesus' birth, His life, and His death, for example, were foretold in the Old Testament. These things have all been fulfilled. We'll be talking about some of these things in the weeks to come. The Bible is one amazing Book! And what it says is true!

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 2 Jesus—His Birth as Emmanuel, God with Us

Point to Emphasize: We can know who Jesus is; He is Emmanuel, “God with us”.

Reading Reference: Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-11, Luke 2:1-11, John 1:14

Memory Verse: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel (which is translated, God with us). (Matthew 1:23)

[Note: If a child asks what a virgin is, you can simply say that this word refers to Mary, the mother of Jesus.]

Story Sample

While you go through the Old Testament and learn so many stories, one thing is certain; after God created man, God wanted to be closer to man. I don't know if you remember, but God's presence was first in the tabernacle and then in the temple where He could dwell among His people. That is quite something. But now, in the New Testament the very God who wanted to be with man came to earth to live among His people as a man. This man was named Jesus. He was also called Emmanuel which means “God with us”.

Jesus' birth was like no other birth. When Jesus was about to be born, the whole territory of Judea had been conquered by the Roman army, and the Romans were ruling over them. The top Roman ruler was Caesar Augustus, and he commanded that everyone under his rule needed to be registered and taxed. The plan was that everyone should go to the city of their fathers for this to happen. Joseph and Mary packed things for the journey and began to go to Bethlehem. When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem, the city was full of people.

Have you heard the story of how you were born? Some births are fast, some slow, some in a hospital, and some in a house. *[Storyteller, tell the story of how you were born or someone you know.]* My birth was pretty ordinary, but Jesus' birth was like none other. Let's see how it happened.

Now they are in Bethlehem to be registered and Mary was about to deliver her baby. There were no hospitals like ours back then, and they could not find a room at an inn (a motel.) After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger so that He would be warm and secure. A manger is the box that holds food for the animals to eat. *[Note: Do not draw or show a picture of a baby or a manger or animals or a stable.]* They did the best they could to give Him a safe and secure place to sleep.

There were shepherds in the area around Bethlehem spending the nights in the fields to keep a watchful eye over their flocks. Then one night an angel of the Lord came to these shepherds and stood by them. SUDDENLY there was a BRIGHT shining around them! The angel gave the shepherds the joyous announcement, “I announce to you good news of great joy, which will be for all the people. Because today a Savior has been born to you...” (Luke 2:10-11). SUDDENLY there was a multitude of angels (that means a large gathering) rushed in praising God and giving Him glory! It was almost as if all those angels just could not stay quiet and let just one angel give this announcement. Oh, how these countless angels celebrated this baby's birth! They were so joyous! They sounded out praises to God!

And when the angels departed from the shepherds into heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us" (v. 15). So they went as quickly as they could to Bethlehem. And they found Mary and Joseph and the baby. They told Mary and Joseph about how the angels came and announced the birth of this baby to them. As the shepherds returned to their flocks, they were glorifying and praising God for the things they had seen!

Jesus' birth was like no other birth. It was foretold in the Old Testament, announced by an angel of the Lord, and celebrated with praises by a multitude of angels. Then after receiving the announcement of this birth, shepherds went to see Him and returned to their flocks praising God, because they had seen the baby who was Emmanuel, God with us. We will see much more about Jesus' life in the coming weeks.

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 3
Jesus—Caring for His Heavenly Father but Being Subject to His Parents

Point to Emphasize: As we grow, we need to obey our parents and be subject to them.

Reading Reference: Luke 2:40-52

Memory Verse: Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready unto every good work. (Titus 3:1)

Sample Story

When Jesus turned twelve, He traveled with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem in a large company of relatives and friends to attend the Feast of Passover. After keeping the Feast of the Passover for seven days, they all journeyed back home. As the large company of people headed back to Nazareth, Joseph and Mary expected to find Jesus with one of their relatives or among their friends. But after a day of traveling and seeking Jesus among the company, they could not find Him. What had happened? Where was He? They returned to Jerusalem to search for Him, and spent three days looking everywhere in the city. They were so concerned! Where was Jesus? Why had He not traveled back with them? As parents, they were worried. Had He been harmed? Mary, His mother, was distressed at not being able to find Him.

They finally found him! Do you know what Jesus had been doing all this time? He had been in the temple (where the Jewish people went to worship God at that time), sitting with the Jewish teachers. These were teachers of God's Word. But here was a twelve-year-old sitting in the midst of Jewish teachers in the temple just as though He was one of them. He was listening to them and then asking them very good questions. He was joining in on their discussion of God's Word at the same level they were at. WOW!! Talk about amazing! Luke 2:47 says, "And all those who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and at His answers."

Then verses 48-49 say, "And when they saw Him, they were astounded; and His mother said to Him, Child, why have You treated us like this? Behold, Your father and I, being greatly distressed, have been seeking You. And He said to them, Why is it that you were seeking Me? Did you not know that I must be in the things of My Father?"

This twelve-year-old boy was filled with wisdom and the Word of God to the point that He was presenting the Word to the teachers in the temple. Jesus understood that He had to be in the things of His Father God. He displayed His wisdom in the temple and His interest for the things of God.

He was the Son of God, and at twelve years of age, He could sit as an equal among many Jewish teachers of God's Word. Yet He went back with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth, and He was subject to them. This means that He still kept Himself under their authority and their control. So often, as children, we think, "Oh, when I grow up, I will do whatever I want to. I won't have to listen to what my parents say then!" But do you know what? Even though my mom lived to be 91 and lived with us in our house where I could have been the "boss", I would still go to her for advice on handling matters. *[Storyteller, use your personal example.]*

But here is Jesus, a boy of twelve deciding that He would remain under the authority and control of His parents. And because He decided this, He advanced in wisdom and stature and in grace before God and men. He was a blessed boy growing up to full manhood.

I would hope that we would also care for the things of God. Even at your age, you can care for God by reading your Bible, coming to children's meetings, and thanking God for all you have. Obeying and being subject to your parents also pleases God. Jesus was one who, on one hand, wanted to be in the things related to God, and yet, on the other hand, was subject to His parents. How much more we should also be subject to our parents. Then, when the time is right, we will be ready to serve God, just as Jesus did.

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 4

Jesus—Calling His Disciples to Follow Him

Point to Emphasize: We can be good followers by watching those who are good patterns to us.

Reading Reference: Matthew 4:16, 18-22; 9:9-13; 10:2-4; Mark 2:14-17; 3:16-19; Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; John 1:35-37, 40-42; 8:12; Acts 1:13

Memory Verse: ...And He said to him, Follow Me. And he rose and followed Him. (Mark 2:14)

Sample Story

When Jesus was living on this earth there were many people who followed Him. He attracted crowds of people and many followed Him because they were amazed at all the things He did. But there were only 12 that Jesus called to follow Him, to be taught by Him. They formed a group called the disciples. In the dictionary it says that a disciple is "someone who follows the teaching of a leader; a pupil." So, the most important word here is "FOLLOWS". The disciples were those who followed Jesus to learn from Him. He was the best One to follow.

The disciples followed Jesus all the time. Wherever He went, they would also go, and all the time, they were learning from Him. They saw Him care for the youngest ones. They saw Him take care of all different ones and saw how He met every man's need. They saw how he cared for poor ones, educated ones, sick ones, etc. They also saw Jesus feeding so many people in an orderly way. From this they learned how they should be neat and orderly, too. By following Him and watching Him to see what kind of person He was, they learned many things.

The disciples that Jesus called were not all the same. He did not just call the "best of the best". Some were fishermen, one was a tax collector, but all of them were willing to leave whatever they were doing to be with Jesus. They listened to what He said and even more so, they saw what kind of person He was by just being with Him and watching Him.

One time, growing up I had a good coach. She would teach us all we needed to play the game well, but she also was a leader in other ways. She was always polite, using the words "please" and "thank you" with us. She wouldn't just bark out instructions as we played. She would shout out, "Hey (name) please remember to pass the ball." So, after a while I realized that I also was saying "please" and "thank you" more often. The other thing about her was that she would correct you if certain words came out of your mouth. She had rules of conduct and you had to follow them. No ugly or angry words were to come out of your mouth when you played. We all followed her lead. *[Storyteller, use your own personal example]*

Not all coaches are good patterns to follow, like this one was. I'm sure you have heard of some who are tremendous players in their sport or singers who have their songs heard by all. But when you see how they really live you see that they are not the kind of person you would want to follow or that your parents would like you to follow. Can you think of someone you know that you should follow as a pattern? Maybe your mom or dad, a teacher, a neighbor, a coach? We can learn so much just by watching others! *[Storyteller, use the rest of the time to discuss some of the ones the children have looked up to and tried to follow.]*

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 5
Jesus' Ministry (1)—Preaching and Teaching

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who talk to others about God and His Word.

Reading Reference: Luke 2:10; 9:10-17; 4:32; Matthew 1:23; John 7:46

Memory Verse: Make known His deeds among the peoples. (Psalm 105:1)

Story Sample

A few weeks ago, we heard how an angel came to the shepherds watching over their flocks at night. The angel said, "...I announce to you good news!" (Luke 2:10). The birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. Of course, the birth of a baby is always happy news, but the angel meant much more than that. The good news was that this baby was Emmanuel, God with us. The angel knew that when Jesus grew up, He would be good news for all the people, AND this is just what happened!

Jesus started His ministry when He was 30 years old. The word "ministry" means that Jesus was carrying something out by His speaking. He traveled all around the land of Judea and shared about God and God's Word with people. His sharing made most people happy. His speaking to them was "good news". This is what the word "gospel" means; it means good news. Most people were so happy to hear Him that soon crowds followed Him wherever He went.

There is a story in the New Testament of how Jesus fed 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. Let's consider why 5,000 people needed to be fed. [*Let the children give some answers.*] We can say that it was too late for them to return home to get food or that there were no stores or restaurants there BUT there is a much more important reason. You see, all those people had come from their villages to HEAR Jesus! They wanted to hear what He had to say! So, they traveled a distance from their towns out to a deserted place where He was. They spent the WHOLE day listening to Jesus share with them.

Have you ever listened to someone for the WHOLE day? That is much more than just listening to your teacher at school or listening to a story in the children's meeting. It means from sometime in the morning until the evening people sat and listened to Jesus sharing with them! You would have to really like what He said to be able to listen that long!

In Luke 4:31 we are told that Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee and He taught in a synagogue on the Sabbath. All who heard Him that day were astounded at His teaching because His word was with authority. This means that they could tell that He knew what He was talking about. Then in John 7, we are told that Jesus went and spoke to a crowd on the last day of the great feast. After hearing Him, many of those attending the feast said, "Never has a man spoken as this man has." Now, maybe we can see why people could spend the whole day listening to Him. These people at the feast had never heard ANYONE speak like Jesus!

Now, I'm sure not one of us can astound people by what we say. But we surely can share about God and His Word with others as He did. I remember a boy who shared a children's meeting song with his class at school. He was your age when he did it. The teacher wanted each one in class to share their favorite poem or song in front of the class. So, this boy shared his favorite song which was from the children's meeting. The teacher really liked the song and asked him where he learned it. He said that each Lord's Day he went to the children's meetings where he sang

songs and heard stories about God. In such a simple way, this boy shared something about God with the whole class. *[Storyteller, give your own example.]*

Maybe, we would not want to sing in our classroom, but there are many little ways we can share about God and His Word with others. What are some ways you might share a verse, a Bible story, or a song with someone? *[Let the children discuss this.]* In all these ways we can be like Jesus, sharing something about God and His Word with others.

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 6 **Jesus' Ministry (2)—Ruling the Universe**

Point to Emphasize: Jesus is God, the Ruler of the Universe Who cares for His people.

Reading Reference: Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Memory Verse: ...Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Story Sample

Teaching the Word of God was not the only thing that Jesus did during His ministry. He did so many incredible and awesome things! These things proved that He was the Creator and the Ruler of the Universe. His ability to do all of these things means that when Jesus was on the earth, He was very powerful! He did things that NO ONE else in the history of mankind has been able to do. Some of the things Jesus did were miracles and wonders. The dictionary says a miracle is an event that can't be explained by natural or scientific laws. This is not magic that you hear about in stories or in books. Those things are false. Jesus performed miracles and wonders, because He is God.

Here are just a few of the things He did: Jesus changed water into wine (John 2:1-11); He fed 5,000 people with two loaves of bread and some fish (Matthew 14:15-21); He healed the sick (Mark 1:34; 3:10; 6:5, 13, 56); and He raised the dead (Matthew 11:5; Luke 7:12-15; John 11:39-44). You can read all of these stories! I can assure you that you will be amazed by the things Jesus did.

Today, I will share with you one of these stories! One time, Jesus was with his disciples by the side of the sea, and He told them that they should cross to the other side of the sea by boat. They all got in the boat and off they went. While they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep on a cushion at the stern (back) of the boat. He wasn't worried about a thing. He had told them they were going to the other side, so that's what they would do. While He slept, though, the weather changed for the worse. A tempest came. Now a tempest is a terrible windstorm, and it blew, and it blew, and it blew. It blew so hard that the boat started filling with water. And do you know what happens when a boat gets too much water in it? That's right, it sinks!

Well, the disciples were really frightened of all this wind and water. They were afraid they would sink! While they were worrying, Jesus was resting! Rather than following Jesus in resting, they were busy with their fear. So they went to Jesus and woke Him. He spoke to the disciples first, telling them not to be afraid and that they needed to believe His word. And then He spoke again. This time He spoke to the winds and the sea. After all, He is the Son of God, the Creator of the air and the water. So He spoke with authority to the winds and the sea, rebuking them, saying, "Be silent! Be still!" (Mark 4:39). And do you know what happened? That's right, there was a calm. The wind stopped, the water settled, and it was calm. Just like that! The disciples marveled at what had happen saying, "What kind of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" (Matthew 8:27). The winds and the sea obeyed Him because He was God.

You know, sometimes when we are in trouble or when things go wrong, we might feel afraid, just like the disciples. We might think God doesn't care about us, or that it doesn't matter to Him if we have trouble. But that's wrong! He cares very much. One time my family was right in the middle of a hurricane. A hurricane is a huge windstorm. We were indoors and could hear the wind blowing stronger and stronger. My dad got us all to sit down together. We started to pray and to

sing some children's songs. While we were singing, it felt like we were all in peace and calm. I felt God was right there with us caring for us and telling us not to be afraid. *[Storyteller, insert your own story.]*

In His ministry, Jesus did miracles and wonders because He was caring for the people. Doing these things showed that He was God, the Creator, and the Ruler of the Universe. As you read more stories in the New Testament you will see how wonderfully He cared for His people in this way.

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 7 **Jesus—Being Captured and Judged**

Point to Emphasize: While Jesus was captured and judged, He always stood for the truth and relied on His Heavenly Father.

Reference Reading: Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:51; 23:1-25; Mark 14:53-71, note 62¹;
John 18:31

Memory Verse: Jehovah is my strength and my shield; / My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped... (Psalm 28:7)

Story Sample

We have been sharing stories on Jesus for a few weeks now, but we have only told stories from one side. However, you should know that there was another side going on. It is like a coin with two sides. On the front of the coin you see a person's image but on the other side is an eagle. With Jesus, there were some people who were always wanting to see and hear Him. They wanted Him to help them. But the other side is that there were some, mostly the Jewish leaders, who were jealous of Him. They were always trying to discredit Him and make it look as if He was not keeping the Jewish law. They were really out to get Him. At every turn, they were fiercely against Him. They despised Him! And in the end, they wanted Him out of the picture. It came to a point where these Jewish leaders began to plot how they could get Him out of the way. They came up with an evil plan.

One evening, the Jewish leaders sent a mob with swords and clubs to capture Him. It looked like there would be a big fight. Someone seized Jesus! In defense of the Lord, one of His disciples drew his sword and cut off the ear of the slave of the top Jewish leader. As Jesus restored the ear He said, "Return your sword to its place... Or do you think that I cannot beseech My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:52-53). As the angry crowd seized Jesus and took Him away, all the disciples fled.

Now let's look at what just happened. What did the disciples do? *[Storyteller, let the children discuss this: they tried to fight back with swords, showing they relied upon what they could do to protect Jesus and themselves, then fled when it looked as if their side had lost.]* What did Jesus do? *[Let the children discuss this: He took care of the damage His disciple had caused to the slave, He spoke about His Father being His protection showing He relied upon God.]* There is quite a difference between Jesus actions and His disciples.

Now they had captured Jesus so that they could judge Him and find Him guilty! So, they led Him away to the high priest and the other top Jewish leaders. They had gathered ones who gave false testimonies against Jesus, saying how He broke the Jewish laws and made Himself God. These Jewish leaders were boiling over with hatred and jealousy toward Jesus. They would stop at nothing to find Him GUILTY and worthy of death. During all this, Jesus was silent and did not answer anything concerning the false accusations made against Him. But He spoke, only saying that He was indeed the Son of Man and the Son of God.

During this Jewish trial, there was a disciple who came to see what was going on. He stayed a distance away and denied before all around Him that He knew Jesus. So, we have Jesus standing for the truth, those making false accusations, and one disciple keeping his distance and denying the truth because he was afraid of being punished by those accusing Jesus.

In the morning, they bound Jesus and led Him away to the Roman rulers to be judged since it was against the Jewish law for them to kill anyone. Again, Jesus said nothing at His trial as all the false accusations were brought against Him. But the Roman rulers did not find ANY fault in Him but wanted to satisfy the crowds, so they delivered Him to death like a criminal.

Here you see Jesus still standing for the truth and trusting His Father, the Roman rulers bending against what they knew was true (Jesus was innocent) and giving way to the please the Jewish leaders and the crowd. In every situation that came against Him, He always stood for the truth and relied on His Heavenly Father. In all this, we see how noble and distinguished Jesus was!

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 8

Jesus—His Death and Burial

Point to Emphasize: Jesus suffered death and was buried with high honor.

Reading Reference: Matthew 27:33-66; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 23:26-50; John 19:17-42

Memory Verse: And the centurion standing opposite by Him, seeing that He had expired in this way, said, Truly this man was the Son of God. (Mark 15:39)

Story Sample

[NOTE TO STORYTELLER: *There is no need to include that Jesus suffered death for us.*]

As we learned a few weeks ago, the birth of Jesus was not ordinary. He was Emmanuel, God with us. As we review how He lived His life, the way He spoke and the things He did, we can see that He was the One sent by God the Father to come to fulfill many things that were prophesied in the Old Testament. The Old Testament not only prophesied of His birth but also prophesied about His death. This means that both the birth of Jesus and the death of Jesus were tremendous matters to God and the history of mankind.

Remember how a multitude of angels appeared to the shepherds and celebrated the birth of Jesus with praises? Since His birth was not ordinary, His death was not ordinary either. Let's see how it happened! After Jesus was captured and judged, even though they could not find ANY fault in Jesus, they sentenced Him to the death of the cross. He was crucified as if He was a criminal. Jesus was willing to suffer this kind of death. Jesus was on the cross for six hours. During this time darkness fell over the whole land and the sky went completely dark. And there was a HUGE earthquake. The earth was shaken and the rocks were split. Tombs were opened and some who had died were raised. Things like this never happen when someone dies. The death of Jesus was like no other! Incredible things happened during His death! This was not the death of an ordinary man. As you grow older, you will continue to learn many GREAT things that were accomplished in His death.

Though He died as a criminal, He was buried in honor. He was buried as a man in a high position. Let me tell you how it happened. In the Jewish tradition, when a man of high position (a king or a rich man) was buried, they would wrap the body in the finest material and they used very costly spices. This is the way Jesus was buried. Joseph, a rich man, asked for the body of Jesus to bury Him. Joseph purchased a very expensive and fine piece of linen and wrapped His body. Another man, Nicodemus came bringing a mixture of about 1,200 ounces of very expensive spices, myrrh, and aloes for the burial. So, Jesus was given the proper burial for a Jew. He was then placed inside a tomb that was carved out of stone. The stone against the door of the tomb was rolled and it was secured with a cord stretch. This is how Jesus was given an excellent burial. His burial was one of a noble person or a person of a high standard. Jesus was buried in this way.

Even though we are so young, it's good for us to know that Jesus suffered death and was buried in such an honorable way.

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 9

Jesus—His Resurrection

Point to Emphasize: Jesus rose from the death.

Reading Reference: Psalm 2:7; 16:10; Matthew 16:21; 27:57-66; 28:1-7; Luke 9:22;
John 20:1-16

Memory Verse: He is not here, for He has been raised, even as He said. (Matthew 28:6)

Story Sample

Last week we talked about how Jesus died and was buried. Do you remember that we said that He was not an ordinary man? His birth was not ordinary, His death was not ordinary, and now we will see something even more extraordinary: His resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead! Amazing!

After He died, the body of Jesus was wrapped in fine linen cloths with spices and placed in a tomb with a stone rolled in front. They placed the body of Jesus inside and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb and sealed it. Guards were left by the tomb to make sure no one came to take His body.

But this is not the end of this story! Early on the first day of the week, there were two Marys who loved Jesus and came to see the grave. There was an earthquake and an angel appeared and moved the stone that sealed the tomb. Jesus was not there! The guards were terrified, but the angel told the women not to be afraid and that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Do you remember how there were angels to announce the birth of Jesus? Well, once again we have angels present, announcing the good news of His resurrection.

The angel told them to go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus had been raised from the dead. So they went to Peter and John, who rushed to the tomb to see. Jesus was not there! They went inside the tomb to look and all that they found were the linens nicely folded and laid in one place. Can you believe that? This was the most important day in the history of man, and yet Jesus took the time to fold His things up before He left the tomb. He was surely the most perfect man!

After Peter and John left to tell the others the good news, Mary stayed behind in the tomb, crying, wondering where He had gone. Two angels sat in the tomb and asked her why she cried. She told them she didn't know where they had taken Jesus. But when she turned, she saw Jesus standing there. He was no longer dead in the tomb. He was raised from the dead!

This is an extraordinary story. It happened just as the Bible said it would. His resurrection was written about in the Old Testament, hundreds of years before it even happened. In the New Testament, Jesus Himself told His disciples about it before He died. And that is just what happened! Jesus suffered death, was buried in high honor and three days later, He was raised from the dead! Amazing!

Intermediate Level, Block 9, Week 10

Jesus—His Ascension

Point to Emphasize: God honored Jesus in His ascension.

Reference Reading: Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:19, and footnotes; Philippians 2:9-11;
Hebrews 2:9; Acts 2:33-36

Memory Verse: Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name. (Philippians 2:9)

Story Sample

Schools usually have a big awards assembly at the end of the year. This assembly is to acknowledge and honor students for their achievements throughout the whole school year. So, if you were in second grade and you had worked harder in reading every day than anyone else in your class, at this assembly you would get the reading award! Everyone would clap when your name was called and all the hard work you had done all year would be acknowledged by this award. Your parents would be so proud of you. You had worked at home every day to get better at reading BUT only today at this awards assembly did you get the honor of receiving the reading award! Your parents might even frame that award and put it on the wall for others to see. It is a real honor to be awarded in this way.

In a way, we can say that this is what happened to Jesus after His resurrection. He ascended (rose from the earth) to the highest place in the universe where the throne of God is. There God acknowledged and honored Jesus. But to see this we need to go back to His birth.

Remember that the birth of Jesus was recorded in the Old Testament a long time before He was born. This shows us that God was really looking forward to this birth. Then, what happened when Jesus was born? The angel came and announced it to the shepherds. Then a host of angels surrounded them all rejoicing that Jesus had been born. These things show us that the birth of Jesus was not an ordinary birth. It was an exciting event both to God and to man.

Recently we have also seen that the death of Jesus was like none other! When He died, the sun was blotted out and there was a great earthquake. Many tombs were opened, and some rose from their graves. Incredible things occurred! Then He was raised from the dead and was resurrected. Again, angels appeared to let His disciples know what had happened. And finally, Jesus ascended from the earth to heaven and sat at the right hand of God.

This is when God acknowledged all that His Son was and had done. God fully approved of Him. This was greater than any awards assembly. God was so pleased that He made Him Lord and Christ! He was given the highest place in the universe and was given the highest Name. This Jesus was awarded the top award! God honored Him in the fullest way! In the whole universe, there is no one as great as the Lord Jesus Christ!

Even at our age, it is so good that we can know these things concerning Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.