

Open Bible Stories — God Raises Jesus from the Dead

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of God raising Jesus from the dead teaches us Jesus defeated death by coming back to life and promises resurrection life to all who believe in Jesus.

Core Belief Verse

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom.

He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil, and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile.

After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born.

He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

He proclaimed to people the nature of real faith, God's kingdom, and how fallen humans can be restored in relationship with God.

Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus revealed his power and glory to his disciples.

He raised a dead man to life.

Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples and put on trial before a Roman governor.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified on a cross Three days later, Jesus rose again from the dead.

The Story: God Raises Jesus from the Dead

41-01



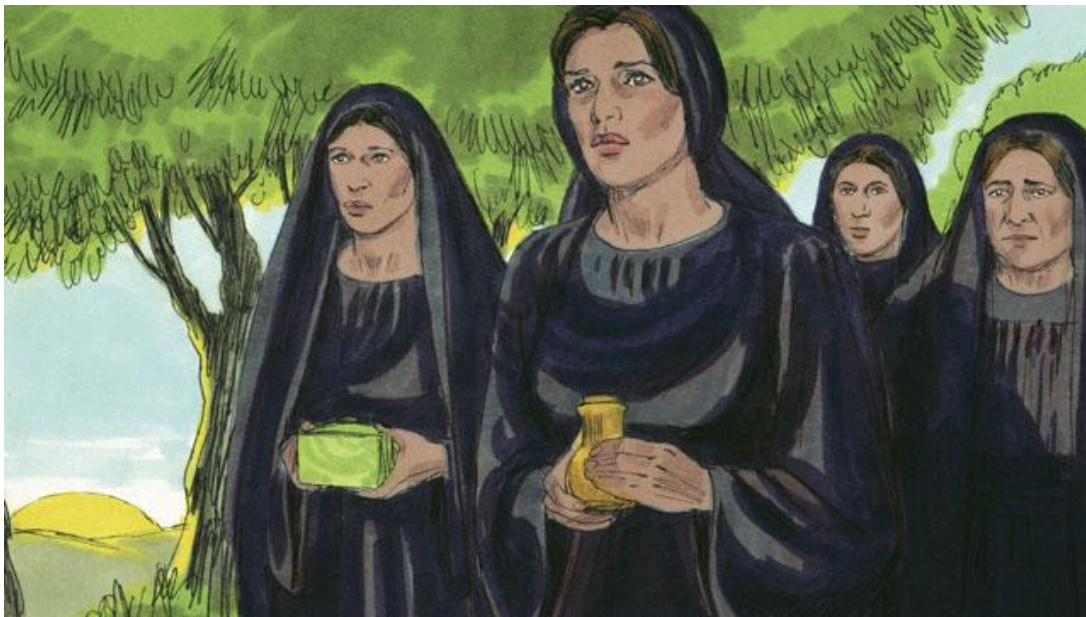
After the soldiers crucified Jesus, the Jewish leaders said to Pilate, "That liar, Jesus, said he would rise from the dead after three days. Someone must guard the tomb to make sure that his disciples do not steal the body. If they do, they will say he has risen from the dead."

41-02



Pilate said, "Take some soldiers and guard the tomb as well as you can." So they placed a seal on the stone at the entrance of the tomb. They also put soldiers there to make sure no one could steal the body.

41-03



The day after Jesus died was a Sabbath day. No one could work on the Sabbath day, so no friends of Jesus went to his tomb. But on the day after the Sabbath, very early in the morning, several women got ready to go to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to put more spices on his body.

41-04



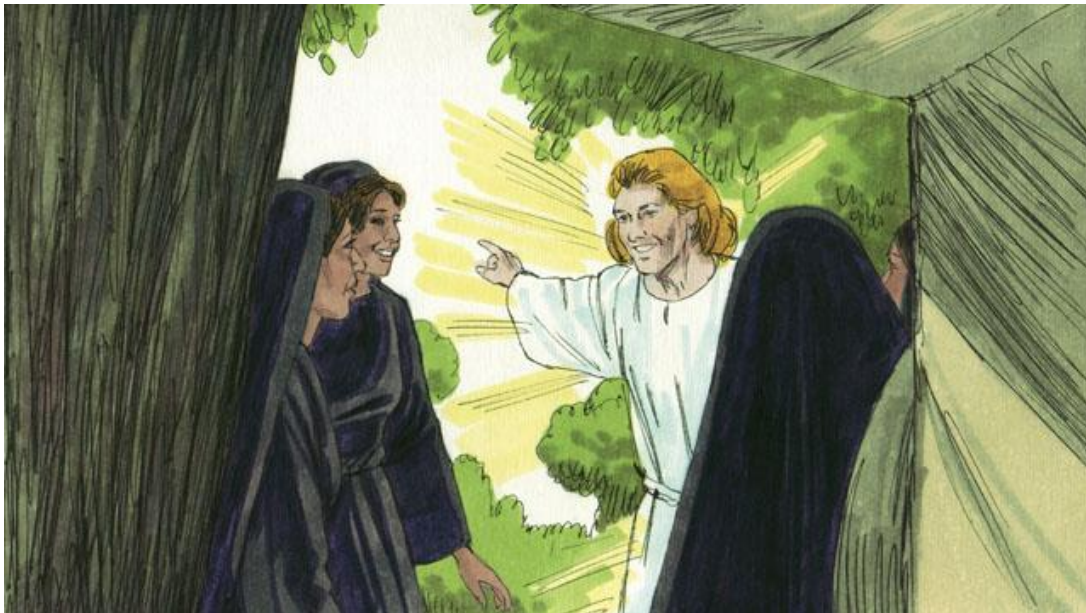
Before the women arrived, there was a great earthquake at the tomb. An angel came from heaven. He rolled away the stone that was covering the entrance to the tomb and sat on it. This angel was shining as brightly as lightning. The soldiers at the tomb saw him. They were so terrified that they fell to the ground like dead men.

41-05



When the women arrived at the tomb, the angel told them, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead, just like he said he would! Look in the tomb and see." The women looked into the tomb and saw where Jesus' body had been laid. His body was not there!

41-06



Then the angel told the women, "Go and tell the disciples, 'Jesus has risen from the dead and he will go to Galilee ahead of you.'"

41-07



The women were amazed and very joyful. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

41-08



As the women were on their way to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus appeared to them. They bowed down at his feet. Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:62-28:15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Community Study: Rich Delight—Experiencing Joy in Personal Relationships

- **Key Idea:** finding joy in relationships with one another
- **Key Passage:** Romans 12:15
- **Main Session:** OBS 41 (God Raises Jesus from the Dead)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

9 We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead he cannot die again; death no longer has authority over him.

Romans 6:9

OR

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will live; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Think about Trust (5-10 minutes)

Jesus is stronger than death. Jesus' resurrection from the dead shows us that God has power over all things and can cause us to be joyful in all circumstances. Think about how Jesus' resurrection is a source of joy.

Because Jesus has resurrected from the dead, he is more powerful than...

Jesus' resurrection brings joy because...

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

When we find joy in God, we are able to enjoy our relationships with one another. When Christians deeply trust each other, they share each other's burdens and joys. Read the passage below to

learn about what God teaches about joy and sorrow in relationships.

*15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
Romans 12:15*

Discuss the Passage (10-15 minutes)

God wants us to enjoy relationship with one another. A healthy Christian community finds joy in others in the community. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. How do these passages instruct believers to relate to one another?
2. How might these instructions be different than how people typically relate to one another?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection give us the power to rejoice and weep with other believers?
4. Why is it important for your community to enjoy other members of the community? How will joy in relationships make your community strong and healthy?

Rejoice and Weep (5 minutes)

Think about others in your community who have a reason for rejoicing and weeping. Identify a person that you can rejoice with. Then, identify a person you can weep with.

One person I can rejoice with is...

One person I can weep with is...

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Pray that God would help your community be a community of joy. After each person prays, have the whole group pray the Scripture passage together.

Gracious God, make our community a joy that...

Pray Together: Our hearts rejoice in him, for we trust in his holy name. Psalm 33:21

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song that rejoices in God. Sing this song together as a community.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

41-01

What did Jesus say would happen three days after his death?

He would rise from the dead.

Did the Jewish leaders believe that Jesus would rise again?

No, they thought he was lying.

What instructions did the Jewish leaders give?

The Jewish leaders told Pilate that someone must guard the tomb.

What were the Jewish leaders afraid that the disciples would do?

They thought the disciples would steal the body and say Jesus had risen from the dead.

41-02

What did the Jewish leaders do to secure Jesus' tomb?

They put soldiers to guard the tomb and placed a seal on the stone at the entrance of the tomb.

41-03

What special day was the day after Jesus' crucifixion?

The day after Jesus' crucifixion was the Sabbath day.

Why did no one visit Jesus on the day after his crucifixion?

No one visited Jesus on the day after his crucifixion because this was the Sabbath day, and Jews were not allowed to work on the Sabbath.

When did the women go to Jesus' tomb?

They went there very early in the morning after the Sabbath day.

Why did the women go to Jesus' tomb?

The women wanted to put more spices on Jesus' body.

41-04

What miraculous events happened at the tomb before the women arrived there?

There was an earthquake, and an angel appeared, rolled away the stone, and sat on it.

What did the angel look like?

The angel was shining as brightly as lightning.

What did the soldiers do when they saw that angel?

They were terrified and fell to the ground like dead men.

41-05

What did the angel say to the women when they arrived at the tomb?

The angel told them not to be afraid, for Jesus had risen from the dead. The angel told them to look in the tomb and see.

What did the women see when they looked in the tomb?

The women looked in the tomb where Jesus' body was laid; his body was not there.

41-06

What did the angel tell the women to say to the disciples?

He told them to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and that he would go to Galilee ahead of them.

41-07

How did the women respond to the angel's message?

The women were amazed and very joyful.

What did the women do?

The women ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus rose from the dead.

41-08

Who appeared to the women as they were on their way to speak to the disciples?

Jesus appeared to them.

What did the women do when they saw Jesus?

They bowed down at his feet.

What did Jesus say to them?

Jesus told them not to be afraid, to go tell the disciples to go Galilee, and to inform them that they would see Jesus there.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.

1. What confidence can we have in Jesus' resurrection from the dead? How does this story give confidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead?
2. How important is Jesus' resurrection? What transformation and change does Jesus' resurrection bring to the world and in the lives of his people? How does this story show how Jesus' resurrection brings about change/transformation/reversal in people and world situations?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection move God's people to mission and evangelism? What are the various ways the women are told to be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. How has your confidence in Jesus' resurrection grown as a result of this story?
2. In what ways has Jesus brought a transformation in your life?
3. Who are people that Jesus wants you to announce the good news of Jesus' resurrection?
4. Think about this week. Where does "God Raises Jesus from the Dead" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of God raising Jesus from the dead teaches us Jesus defeated death by coming back to life and promises resurrection life to all who believe in Jesus.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "God Raises Jesus from the Dead" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God Raises Jesus from the Dead" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember? Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.