

GRADE 10
LESSON PLAN 4

THE RESURRECTION



GRADE LEVEL: 10

THEME/TOPIC: Paschal Mystery: Resurrection

SUMMARY OF THE VIGNETTE:

The Resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have been given eternal life. In conquering death, Christ opened the door to a life free from sin and death. Belief in Christ's resurrection from eyewitness reports made it possible for the disciples to preach Christ as Savior and Messiah and to build the Church.

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OBJECTIVES: *Students will be able to . . .*

- Explain the concept of bodily resurrection.
- Articulate the significance of Christ’s resurrection as the cornerstone of Christian faith.
- Describe how the Paschal Mystery affects their daily lives.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- DVD Vignette: “The Resurrection”
- New American Bible
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

RELATED BIBLE & CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PASSAGES:

- Matthew 28 (Resurrected Christ according to Matthew)
- Mark 16 (Resurrected Christ according to Mark)
- Luke 24 (Resurrected Christ according to Luke)
- John 20-21 (Resurrected Christ according to John)
- Acts of the Apostles 1-2 (Ascension & Pentecost)
- CCC 639-646 (Resurrection)
- CCC 651-655 (Significance of Resurrection to Christianity)
- CCC 989, 995, 997-1004 (Significance of Resurrection for the individual)

PROCEDURES & TASKS:

At the start of each part of the lesson (if taught as separate classes):

- Welcome the students with warmth and enthusiasm.
- *Begin with prayer.* This should help the students disengage from their preoccupations and have an open heart before God. You may choose to pray in a number of different ways, including with Scripture, with music, in silence, with traditional prayers, or with extemporaneous prayer that arises from the heart.

DO NOW: Read Luke 24:13-35. Note what characteristics of the Risen Christ stand out.

PART 1: RESURRECTION

(Explain in lecture format)

A. Evidence in the four Gospels

It is important to note that none of the four Gospels actually describe the moment of resurrection. There are, however, a number of commonalities within the Gospel accounts with regards to that Resurrection Day.

- There was an empty tomb. Where there had been laid a body, there was none.
- Women came early in the morning and witnessed this empty tomb. (This was written in times of a patriarchal society; having the major witnesses be women would not have been a likely fabrication.)
- An angel-messenger (or two) explained to the witnesses that Christ was alive.

B. The Resurrected Christ... (Biblical references provided for the teacher who wants to take time to read actual accounts)

- ...was physical.
 - * Thomas touched him in John 20. This was not an apparition.
 - * This was undoubtedly the body that had been crucified, complete with wounds.
 - * Jesus did living, human things, i.e. he ate with his disciples in John 21.
- ...was not bound by laws of physics.
 - * He vanished from his disciples' sight in Luke 24.
 - * He appeared inside a locked room in John 20.
 - * He was lifted up on a cloud out of their sight in Acts 1.
- ...was the same but different.
 - * At first he was not recognizable, and then he was.
 - * Mary Magdalene didn't recognize him until he spoke in John 20.
 - * The disciples on the Road to Emmaus didn't recognize him until he broke bread in Luke 24.

PART 2: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION TO CHRISTIANITY

Watch DVD Vignette: “Resurrection.”

Fr. Barron speaks of the Resurrection as if it is “the hinge, the cornerstone” of the Christian faith.

Topics for discussion:

- What is a hinge?

Possible answer: Something that connects two solid objects but allows a specified range of motion; once connected, it is typically difficult to disconnect.

- How is Christ’s resurrection a hinge to Christianity?

Possible answer: It offers a reason or a connection to Jesus’ suffering and death. His death leads to eternal life for all who believe, hinging together God and humanity after the Fall and negating the power of sin and death in our lives.

- What is a cornerstone?

Possible answer: A cornerstone is the first stone in construction of a building; it’s important because all other stones are laid in relationship to it.

- How is Christ’s resurrection a cornerstone to Christianity?

- What bricks are now aligned in relationship to that first “resurrection” brick?

PART 3: RESURRECTION IN OUR LIVES

1. The Paschal Mystery teaches us that:
 - Christ’s death freed us from slavery to sin, suffering, and death.
 - Christ’s resurrection opens up a way to a new life.
2. We come in contact with sin, suffering, and death on a daily basis. Have students privately journal their responses to the question: “With what kinds of sin, suffering, and death do I come in contact on a daily basis?”

Possible answers, if students need ideas...

- * Inadvertently or on purpose, we sin. Likewise, sins are committed against us. Be they venial or mortal sins, sins are a part of our human existence.
- * Every day, we are faced with suffering. It may be an illness, an emotional experience, a sad period in one’s life, or even witnessing a homeless person on the street.
- * We may experience death in one of two ways. We can experience the *physical death* of a loved one or even of someone in the newspaper, or we can experience “*little deaths*”—a loss in a sport championships, not getting a role in the school play, a friendship coming to an end.

3. Christ's resurrection teaches us that our life is not only these sins, sufferings, and deaths. There is a greater new life beyond these!

For example:

- * We believe our sinful nature died with Christ. When we are baptized, we are no longer bound to that nature. Infused with sanctifying grace, we walk through our lives with the knowledge that God will help us to say "no!" to the sin.
- * We face our suffering knowing that there is more beyond it. Suffering dies with Christ on the cross. We pray to Christ to take our suffering from us, to allow it to die with him.
- * We look upon death not as the end, but as a door to a new beginning. The death of a beloved grandparent opens the door to the birth of her great grandchild. The loss of a state championship game opens the door to a reenergized effort and attitude in a future season on a team.

ACTIVITIES & ENRICHMENT:

1. Create a list of every characteristic of the Risen Christ that you can find in all four Gospels.
2. Discuss how the Sacraments offer a variety of opportunities to experience resurrections.

ASSESSMENT(S):

- *Exit Ticket:* In a couple of sentences, describe a time in your life when you experienced a resurrection. What role do you think Christ played in that resurrection?
- *Homework:* Read Acts 1-2. Note how the experience of the Risen Christ transformed the apostles. In proper essay format, write about a time in your life when you experienced a transforming power of Christ.