

# Teacher Background & Preparation Sheet

For Teacher Study Only — Not Read Aloud

## LESSON IDENTIFICATION

<b>Week #:</b>	14
<b>Date:</b>	April 5, 2026
<b>Lesson Title:</b>	Jesus Is Alive! The Resurrection Changes Everything
<b>Primary Scripture:</b>	Matthew 28:1–10; Matthew 28:16–20
<b>Bible Timeline:</b>	Easter Sunday / Resurrection Morning — after Jesus' crucifixion and burial, before His ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit

## PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON

Children should learn that Jesus truly died for our sins and truly rose again on the third day, just as He said He would (Matthew 16:21; 28:5–6). They should see that the resurrection shows who Jesus is, proves that His saving work is finished and accepted, gives forgiveness and new life to all who trust Him, and fills God's people with joy, courage, and hope. This lesson should also help children understand that Christianity stands on real events in history, not made-up religious ideas (1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 17–20).

## BOOK & PASSAGE BACKGROUND

<b>Book Name:</b>	Matthew
<b>Traditional Author:</b>	Matthew, the tax collector turned disciple of Jesus (Matthew 9:9)
<b>Approximate Date:</b>	Commonly placed in the first century, likely before the end of the first century
<b>Original Audience:</b>	A broad early Christian audience, with strong attention to Jewish readers and to showing that Jesus fulfills God's promises in the Old Testament
<b>Purpose of the Book:</b>	To present Jesus as the promised Messiah, true King, Son of David, Son of Abraham, and authoritative Teacher, and to call people to trust and follow Him. Matthew repeatedly shows that what happened in Jesus' life took place in fulfillment of Scripture (Matthew 1:22; 2:5–6, 15, 17; 26:54; 27:9).

## HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

Jesus was crucified under Roman authority outside Jerusalem during Passover week (Matthew 27:26–37). Crucifixion was a real Roman form of execution used to shame and kill criminals and rebels publicly. Jesus' body was placed in a tomb cut from rock and sealed with a large stone (Matthew 27:57–60). Matthew also records that the chief priests and Pharisees remembered Jesus had spoken about rising again, so they asked Pilate to secure the tomb. Guards were posted, and the tomb was sealed (Matthew 27:62–66). That detail matters because it shows Jesus'

enemies were trying to prevent any false claim that He had risen.

The women who came to the tomb early on the first day of the week were not coming because they expected a resurrection. They came in grief, love, and devotion. Their sorrow helps show that the resurrection was not a legend they were trying to invent. In that culture, women were often not treated as strong public witnesses, yet God chose them to be the first witnesses of the empty tomb and the risen Lord (Matthew 28:1–10). This bears the mark of truth rather than human invention.

Jerusalem was full of pilgrims during Passover, and Jesus' death and resurrection happened in a public setting, near real authorities, real soldiers, and real places. Christianity is rooted in history.

## IMMEDIATE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

### What happens before this passage?

Jesus entered Jerusalem as the promised King (Matthew 21:1–11), cleansed the temple, taught publicly, ate the Passover with His disciples, prayed in Gethsemane, was betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, crucified, died, and was buried in Joseph's tomb (Matthew 26–27). At His death there were extraordinary signs, and even the centurion confessed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54).

### What happens after this passage?

Jesus meets His disciples in Galilee and gives the Great Commission, declaring that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:16–20). His resurrection leads directly to disciple-making, baptism, teaching, and the promise of His presence with His people.

### Why this moment matters in God's plan:

The resurrection is the public victory of Jesus over sin, death, and Satan. Jesus had already paid for sin at the cross (Matthew 26:28; John 19:30). In the resurrection, God openly vindicates His Son and shows that death could not hold Him (Acts 2:24). Without the resurrection, there is no Christian hope; with the resurrection, there is forgiveness, life, mission, and future resurrection for God's people (1 Corinthians 15:17–22).

## KEY THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS — APPLIED TO THIS WEEK'S LESSON

### CORE TRUTH #1: What this lesson teaches about God

God is truthful, powerful, holy, and faithful to His promises. Jesus told His disciples ahead of time that He would be killed and rise on the third day (Matthew 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:18–19). Matthew 28:6 says, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." God always keeps His Word. The resurrection also shows God's mighty power over death itself. This matters today because children live in a world where people break promises and death feels frightening, but God never lies and nothing is too hard for Him (Numbers 23:19; Luke 1:37).

### CORE TRUTH #2: What this lesson teaches about people

People are sinners who cannot save themselves. The cross happened because our sin is serious before a holy God (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Jesus' followers were afraid, grieving, and confused, and His enemies tried to suppress the truth (Matthew 28:11–15). That shows both weakness and unbelief in the human heart. Yet the women responded with fear and great joy and ran to obey Jesus (Matthew 28:8–10). People need God's mercy, truth, and courage.

### **CORE TRUTH #3: What this lesson teaches about salvation**

Jesus is our Savior. He died for sins and rose again. Matthew's Gospel shows Jesus giving His life "as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28), and at the Last Supper He says His blood is "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). The resurrection shows that His saving work is real and effective. Romans 4:25 says He "was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Through faith in Jesus, sinners are forgiven, made right with God, and given eternal life (John 11:25–26; 1 Peter 1:3).

### **CORE TRUTH #4: Trusting God's Word**

This passage strengthens trust in Scripture because it records fulfilled words of Jesus and invites examination of real events. Jesus said He would rise, and He did. The empty tomb, the angel's announcement, the women seeing Jesus, and the later appearance to the disciples all fit together as eyewitness-rooted testimony (Matthew 28:5–10, 16–20; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8). Scripture is not asking children to believe a fairy tale. It is telling them what God did in history. Because God's Word is true, children can build their lives on it (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17).

### **CORE TRUTH #5: God as Trinity**

God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This lesson especially highlights God the Son, Jesus Christ, who truly died and truly rose again. The Father raised the Son by His power (Acts 2:24; Romans 6:4; Galatians 1:1), and the Holy Spirit is also active in resurrection power (Romans 8:11). In Matthew 28:19, the risen Jesus commands His disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." That verse is especially important for teacher clarity: one name, yet three Persons. The resurrection does not create the Trinity; it reveals the glory of the triune God at work in salvation.

## **RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE**

The resurrection is central, early, and well-attested in the New Testament. Paul records a summary of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 that includes Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and appearances, showing this was not a late legend but foundational Christian teaching from the beginning. Matthew includes details that would have been difficult to invent persuasively if they were false: fearful disciples, women as first witnesses, a guarded tomb, and the admission that opponents had to explain the empty tomb somehow (Matthew 27:62–66; 28:11–15).

The unity of Scripture also strengthens confidence. Job spoke of seeing God after death (Job 19:25–27). Psalm 16:10 points to God's Holy One not seeing decay. Isaiah 53 joins the suffering of God's Servant with ongoing life after death, saying, "After he has suffered, he will see the light of life" and that He will justify many (Isaiah 53:11). Jesus' resurrection fits the whole Bible's message rather than standing alone.

Historically, the resurrection is supported by several widely recognized facts: Jesus' death by crucifixion, the sincere proclamation of the risen Christ by His followers, the empty tomb tradition, and the radical transformation of frightened disciples into bold witnesses. Historical support is never above Scripture, but it can help teachers reassure children that Christian faith is grounded in truth.

## **APOLOGETICS FOUNDATION**

### **Why is this event believable?**

1. Jesus repeatedly predicted His resurrection before it happened (Matthew 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:18–19).
2. The tomb was known, sealed, and guarded (Matthew 27:62–66).

3. The women found the tomb empty and heard the angel say, "He is not here; he has risen" (Matthew 28:5–6).
4. The women then met Jesus Himself (Matthew 28:9–10).
5. The risen Jesus later met His disciples and commissioned them (Matthew 28:16–20).
6. The earliest Christians proclaimed a bodily resurrection, not merely a spiritual memory or symbol (Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8).

### How to answer doubts with confidence and gentleness:

#### If a child asks whether the disciples made it up:

Point out that Matthew already records that the tomb was guarded because Jesus' enemies feared such a claim (Matthew 27:64–66). Also point out that liars do not usually choose embarrassing details like cowardly disciples and grieving women as primary witnesses.

#### If a child asks whether Jesus only fainted:

Remind them that Roman executioners knew how to kill, Jesus was certified dead, buried, and then appeared alive and victorious, not weak and half-recovered (John 19:33–35; Mark 15:44–45).

#### If a child asks whether resurrection is impossible:

Remind them that it is impossible for people by their own power, but not for God, who made life in the first place (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 32:17; Luke 18:27).

## ANTICIPATED CHILD QUESTIONS

### 1. Did Jesus really die?

Yes. Jesus truly died on the cross. Matthew 27:50 says, "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit." He was then buried in a real tomb (Matthew 27:57–60).

### 2. Did Jesus really come back to life in His body?

Yes. The angel said, "He is not here; he has risen" (Matthew 28:6). Jesus was seen, heard, and touched after He rose (Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39).

### 3. Why did Jesus have to die?

Jesus died to save sinners. He gave His life as a ransom (Matthew 20:28), and His blood was poured out "for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

### 4. Why does the resurrection matter to me?

Because Jesus is alive, He can forgive you, save you, help you, and keep His promises. Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Everyone who trusts in Him has living hope (1 Peter 1:3).

### 5. Was the resurrection just a symbol?

No. The Bible presents it as a real event in history. If Jesus did not rise, our faith would be useless, but He truly has been raised (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20).

## 6. What should I do if I believe Jesus is alive?

Turn from sin, trust in Jesus, and follow Him. The risen Jesus is not only to be admired; He is to be obeyed and worshiped (Matthew 28:9, 18–20; Acts 16:31).

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

### **Misunderstanding: Jesus only came alive in the hearts or memories of His followers.**

Correction: Matthew, Luke, John, and 1 Corinthians all teach a real resurrection. Jesus was physically raised and appeared to real people in real places (Matthew 28:9–10; Luke 24:36–43; John 20:24–29).

### **Misunderstanding: Easter is mainly about spring, eggs, or being nice.**

Correction: Easter is about the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ. Joyful traditions may exist around the day, but the reason Easter matters is that Jesus died for sins and rose again.

### **Misunderstanding: The resurrection means Christians never feel sad or scared.**

Correction: The women felt fear and great joy together (Matthew 28:8). Christians still feel sorrow and weakness, but the risen Jesus meets His people with comfort, peace, and courage.

### **Misunderstanding: The Trinity means God changes roles.**

Correction: God is one God in three Persons. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father. Yet each Person is fully God. Matthew 28:19 helps us say this carefully and faithfully.

## GOSPEL CONNECTION

The resurrection cannot be separated from the cross. Jesus died in the place of sinners, bearing the judgment we deserve, and He rose in victory. This means the gospel is not merely that Jesus was a good teacher who survived in people's memories. The gospel is that Jesus our Savior died for our sins and rose again. This fits beautifully with the Fourfold Gospel emphasis of The Christian and Missionary Alliance: Jesus is our Savior through His death and resurrection; Jesus is our Sanctifier because the living Christ helps us walk in new life; Jesus is our Healer, showing His compassion and power over the brokenness sin has brought into the world; and Jesus is our Coming King, because the risen Lord will return just as He promised. The empty tomb gives children a living Savior to trust, not a dead hero to admire.

## TEACHER HEART PREPARATION

### **Prayer Focus:**

*Lord Jesus, thank You that You truly died for sinners and truly rose again. Help me teach with reverence, joy, clarity, and confidence. Keep me from using empty tradition or vague language. Help me show the children what Your Word says. Let fearful children hear hope, let doubting children hear truth, and let every child hear that You are alive and able to save.*

### **Encouragement for the Teacher:**

You are not teaching a holiday theme; you are teaching the center of the Christian faith. Keep the resurrection clear, simple, and Scripture-filled. Do not feel pressure to make it flashy. God's Word itself is powerful. Read the text, explain the text, and lovingly point the children to the living Christ. Because Jesus is alive, your labor in Him is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).