

The Victorious Christ

Chapters 15-16

1. What is one victory you have had in your life? _____

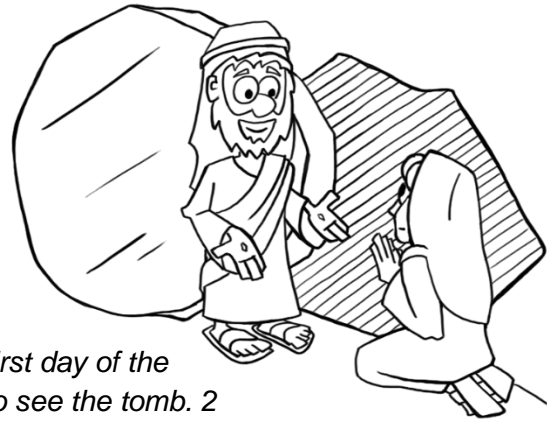
2. The resurrection of Christ

(Mathew 28:1-9).

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

People in this story:

_____ who came to the tomb early in the morning.
_____ who rolled away the stone.
_____ who guarded the tomb against anyone stealing the body.
_____ who was resurrected.



The Ascension of Christ (Acts 1:3-11).

3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Jerusalem (their city)	Judea (their region)	Samaria (neighboring region)	To the ends of the earth (distant lands)
People of the same culture	People of the same culture	People of a different culture	People of a different culture

The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.



The Bible says that the Holy Spirit comes upon anyone who _____ that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13).

3. Why is Jesus' resurrection such an important event? _____

What do we learn from the story of the ascension of Christ? _____

What role does the Holy Spirit play in a believer's life?

1. The Holy Spirit is a _____ who instructs and reminds us of what Jesus taught (John 14:26).
2. The Holy Spirit gives _____ to believers (1 Cor 12:7-11).
3. The Holy Spirit is the _____ of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13).
4. The Holy Spirit _____ for Christians (Romans 8:26-27).
5. The Holy Spirit enables believers to bear _____ (Galatians 5:22-25).

Memory verse:

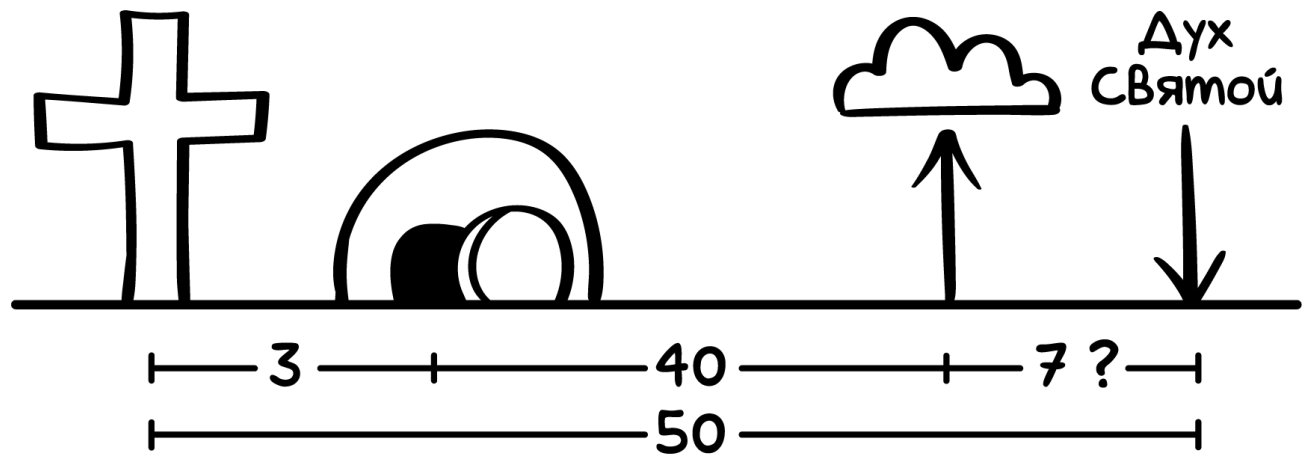
The Resurrection of Christ

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20

4. Assignment: Read chapters 17-18 of the book and, if you have time, 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13. Review the memory verses.

Draw the following timeline as you discuss events.



The Victorious Christ (The resurrection – chapters 15 & 16 of the book)

Lesson Preparation:

Read chapters 15-16 in the book ("Christ is Risen!" and "The Church - Jesus' Body on Earth"). Have handouts ready.

1. Hook:

Begin with prayer. Today we are going to be talking about victory. Usually, we connect this word to sports and war, but we can also have victories in our lives. Ask what would you say is the greatest victory you have accomplished in your life? Allow people a chance to share their victories. We usually think of a task that seemed very difficult and there was likelihood that we would not succeed, but we had success against the odds. Today we are looking at one of the greatest victories of all-time. The victory of Jesus Christ over death and what it means for us.

2. Book:

On the third day after His death, Jesus rose from the dead, just as He had predicted. Read Matthew 28:1-9. In this story we see different people. 1. The women who came to the tomb, early in the morning, to anoint Jesus' body with incense. They did not expect to find Jesus alive. Another gospel says that they wondered who would roll away a huge stone from the entrance to the tomb. These women were the first to see Jesus risen. 2. The angel who rolled away the stone, making it possible to see with their own eyes that the tomb was empty. The angel announced to the women that Christ was risen. 3. The guards who guarded the tomb against anyone stealing the body and saying it had resurrected, as Jesus had prophesied. The guards were so terrified by the angel's appearance that they fainted. The religious leaders bribed

the guards to say that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body. 4. Jesus who was resurrected. He appeared to the women and told them to tell the disciples the good news of His resurrection. Jesus then appeared several times to His disciples and once to 500 followers at a time (1 Corinthians 15:6). The disciples had no doubt that Jesus was alive. However, He did not remain for long on earth, but ascended up to heaven. Read Acts 1:3-11. Ask: "According to verse 3, what did Jesus do during the 40 days before He ascended into heaven?" (Answers: He showed that He was alive; He appeared to the apostles; He spoke of the kingdom of God). Again in v. 6 we see that the disciples hoped that the earthly kingdom of God would come now, but as we have discussed, that would not happen until Christ's Second Coming. For Jesus, the more pressing topic was the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had to leave soon so that the Holy Spirit could come and empower believers. We don't know why both Jesus and the Holy Spirit couldn't both be on earth at the same time, but the Bible says they had to take turns. See John 16:7. Jesus leaves and then sends the Holy Spirit to empower believers to proclaim the good news of forgiveness and reconciliation with God through Jesus' sacrifice. Ask: "According to verse 8, where were the disciples to testify about Jesus?" Show these places on a map. (Answers: In Jerusalem: a city where people of the same culture lived as they did; in Judea: a country where people of the same culture lived as they did. In Samaria, outside of their culture, where a mixed race of Jew and Gentile lived. The Samaritans were considered unclean by

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the Jews. They were people who lived, not far away, but had a different culture. To the end of the earth – far away from Judea, where people of very different cultures lived). The good news of man's reconciliation with God through Christ's death and resurrection is not tied to just one culture or group of people. The third important event we will consider today is the coming of the Holy Spirit. This occurred on the Jewish feast day, Pentecost, which commemorated the day Moses received the law from God. The feast of Pentecost fell on the fiftieth day after Passover. Now Pentecost is a Christian holiday celebrating the Coming of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 2:1-4. The first time the Holy Spirit came upon those who believed very visibly. But the Bible says that the Holy Spirit comes upon anyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah). Read Ephesians 1:13.

3. Look:

The three events we looked at today are all part of the story of Jesus, but how do these stories connect to my story. What significance is there to life today? Ask, why is the resurrection of Jesus such an important event? (Answers: It shows God's great power over death; it proves that Jesus is who he claimed to be; we now know there is life after death, etc.) Ask, "What do we learn from the story of the ascension of Christ?" (Answers: Jesus will return just as he left; Jesus

wants us to tell others the good news, etc.) Ask, what role does the Holy Spirit play in a believer's life? According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit has several roles that He plays in the believer's life. 1. The Holy Spirit is a Helper who instructs and reminds us of what Jesus taught (John 14:26). 2. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (1 Cor 12:7-11). 3. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13). 4. The Holy Spirit intercedes for Christians (Romans 8:26-27). 5. The Holy Spirit enables believers to bear good fruit (Galatians 5:22-25).

4. Took:

So today we learned how Jesus rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and will come again, just as He promised. Believers are to share the good news of Jesus with others, and they are promised the Holy Spirit to help them live as God intended. Next week we will look at how Christ's followers spread his message throughout the earth and at what Jesus is doing now. Assignment: Read chapters 17-18 in the book ("The Church of Jesus Christ for All" and "What Is Jesus Doing Now?") and, if you have time, 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13. Review the memory verse. Finish with prayer.

The roles of the Holy Spirit are taken from the website:

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holy-spirit/10-roles-of-the-holy-spirit-in-christian-life.html>

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