

Second Sunday of Easter – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Acts 4:32-35](#) and [John 20:19-31](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/easterb2.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115869_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.sermons4kids.com/ID_please.html

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east2les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/Seasonal/2-Easter/A-2Easter.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#e2>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/resurrection.htm>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/281ThomasDoubts.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Picture of your town, city or community

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!

Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!

Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Show the children the picture of your town, city or community. Ask the children what they like about living in their home town. (*Wait for their responses.*) Ask the children what they would like to improve about their home towns. (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain that after Jesus died and rose from the dead, many of his followers lived together in Jerusalem and had a special way of living together that made the city a better place to live.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

The community of believers, those who knew that Jesus had been raised from the dead by God, had gathered together in Jerusalem. They were trying to live the way that Jesus had taught his friends. As they did so they remembered the stories that Jesus' friends told them about what had happened after Jesus was risen. They remembered one story in particular.

It was Sunday evening. Jesus' friends had heard some strange things. Some of the women had told the others what they had seen. They had seen Jesus alive. It was hard for everyone to believe. They all met together in a locked room, they were feeling scared and alone.

All of a sudden, Jesus was there in the midst of them. He looked around at his friends and said, "Peace be with you."

Jesus then showed his friends his hands and his side (the places where he was wounded on the cross). Jesus' friends were so happy. Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. Just as God sent me now I am going to send you."

As he said this Jesus breathed on them and said, "Take the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the wrongs that people have done then they will be forgiven. If you tell people to right their wrongs and they don't then they won't be forgiven."

One of the friends of Jesus wasn't there that night, his name was Thomas. He did not believe his friends when they told him their news. Thomas told them, "Unless I see and touch Jesus myself I won't believe what you are telling me."

The next Sunday they all gathered together again in the house. This time Thomas was with them. Again the doors to the house were locked. Again Jesus was there in the midst of them. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you. Here Thomas come and look and touch. Believe in what God has done."

Thomas was overcome. He looked at Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus said, "Do you believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who believe who have not seen me and yet still believe."

The followers in Jerusalem remembered that Jesus said that would be blessed even if they had not seen him because they still knew the truth of what God had done for the world. They looked after each other. They made sure that no one was without food, clothes or a place to sleep. They knew that God was with them through the presence of Jesus.

Response

Project Idea 1: Easter Cards

These cards will be a good reminder that the season of Easter is for more than just a Sunday of the year.

Materials needed

- card stock
- butterfly image at end of lesson
- fine line markers
- scissors
- Easter season stickers
- glue
- bright coloured tissue paper

Instructions

Give each child a piece of card stock. Have them fold the card stock in half to make a card. Invite the children to cut out the butterfly image and glue it onto the front of their card. On the inside of the card have the children print the following **'Jesus is risen! God is with us!'** with their markers and then sign their names. Show the children how to take pieces of the tissue paper, crumple them, and then glue them onto the wings of the butterfly in order to decorate it. As they are decorating their cards invite them to think about who they would like to give the cards. Remind the children that the season of Easter goes for a long time and it is very appropriate to give someone a card celebrating Easter.

Project Idea 2: Locked Door Picture

With this picture the children can share with their families the joy that the disciples had when Jesus showed up behind locked doors.

Materials needed

- white paper
- Easter season stickers
- fine line markers
- Jesus image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks

Instructions

Copy the Jesus image at the end of the lesson – make sure you have one for each child. Give each child a piece of white paper. Have them fold the paper from the short edges about 7 cm (2.5 in) so that those edges meet in the middle. It should look like two sides of a door coming together. Have the children cut out the Jesus face and glue it onto the centre panel of the inside of the 'doors'. Invite the children to print on the inside **'Jesus is risen! God is with us!'** under the picture. Have the children to fold the two sides of the door over the face and seal it with the Easter stickers and let them put other stickers on the locked door to decorate it with. Invite the children to share the secret of the locked door with their families when they get home.

Project Idea 3: Easter Egg Poster – Butterfly

This will be an ongoing project for the season of Easter. You will need to have a place to keep the children's posters between each session.

Materials needed

- butterfly image at end of lesson
- 11" x 14" or 11" x 17" white paper (ISO size B4, A3 or A4)
- bright coloured tissue paper
- glue sticks
- markers
- scissors
- Easter Egg poster guide at end of lesson

Note. If you use 8.5" x 11" or A4 sheets, take the smaller image; otherwise, take the larger one.

Instructions

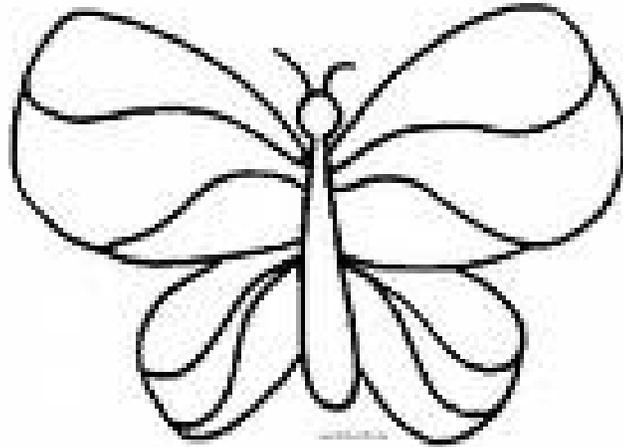
Take a look at the Easter Egg poster guide at the end of the lesson. Either have the children or do this yourself draw a large oval on the paper with a marker, so that it looks like an Easter Egg. Let the children know that this will be an ongoing project throughout Easter and they will add an image to their egg each week. Print enough copies of the butterfly so that each child has one. Have the children cut around the edges of their butterfly and glue it on the top left corner of the egg shape. Have the children take pieces of the tissue paper, crumple them and then glue them onto the wings of the butterfly, in order to decorate it. Tell the children as they are working that the butterfly is a symbol of new life and resurrection and we often use it during the Easter season. Make sure that the children put their names on the back of the posters. Place their posters in a safe place for next week.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for loving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.
Amen.

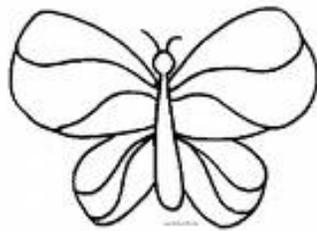
Butterfly Image



For Project idea 1, use large butterfly

**For Project idea 3 on a large sheet of paper,
use large butterfly**

**For Project idea 3 on 8.5" × 11" or A4 paper,
use small butterfly**



Jesus Face



Egg Poster – Guideline

