

The importance of Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Jesus claimed to possess attributes that belonged to God alone. What was Jesus' claim in Matthew 28:18? _____

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Compare Genesis 2:7 and John 5:26. What attribute does Jesus claim to share with God? _____

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

Jesus made many claims that to the Jews seemed outrageous. He directly said: (John 10:30) "I and the Father are one." Even though He did many miracles (John 10:25) to prove He was powerful only one thing could prove He was powerful enough to do what He claimed in John 10: 17-19. What is that claim: _____

John 10:17-19 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." At these words the Jews were again divided.

These are the unique claims of Christianity. The resurrection is undeniable proof that:

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

1. Our faith is not _____
(1 Corinthians 15:17)

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

Jesus is who he said He is. Who is Jesus? _____
(John 10:30)?

John 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

He can do what He said He would do. In John 11:25-26 what did He say He would do? _____

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Because He is alive I will also: _____
(John 14:19)

Where is Jesus today? _____ What is He doing? _____
(John 14:2-3)

What can we expect? _____

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The Goal of this lesson: The goal of this lesson is to drive home the importance and uniqueness of Jesus' resurrection.

Lesson Preparation: I used a lot of information from the book: Know What You Believe, by Paul E. Little, Chariot Victor Publishing. This book and its companion book, Know Why You Believe, are awesome guides for succinctly defining the Christian faith. These books should be in every Christian leaders reference library.

Leading the Lesson: Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

(If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.)

The first half of the lesson is devoted to Jesus' claim to be God. This is a unique claim of Christianity and must be a firm, unwavering aspect of a persons faith.

The second half of the lesson is devoted to firming up these truths that the resurrection affirms:

1. The resurrection confirms the truth and value of what Jesus taught and did.
-you might read the entire text of 1 Corinthians 15: 12-28 to give some depth and context to verse 17.
2. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrection.
3. Jesus is alive today., still in charge, and preparing a place for us.
4. He will come back to get us.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.