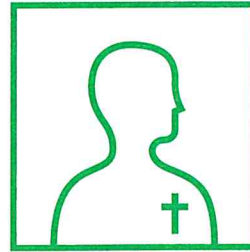


Question 50

What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?



Answer

Christ triumphed over sin and death so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come.

Big Idea

The resurrection confirms God's satisfaction with Christ's substitutionary death and assures Christians of the hope of resurrection.

Aim

To help the children understand that Christians can confidently expect to be resurrected because of Jesus's triumph over death.

Bible Passage

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Memory Verse

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Thess. 4:13–14)

Virtue
Hope





Notes

Leader's Notes

The resurrection is a key doctrine for Christians. We need to grasp not only the fact of Jesus's bodily resurrection but also its implications. This lesson will reinforce Question 49 and the belief that Jesus rose physically from the dead and physically ascended into heaven. It will also help the children to understand the personal implications of the resurrection, namely that God was satisfied with Jesus's substitutionary atoning death on the cross, and thus we know that Jesus's death was sufficient to pay for the sin of all who trust in him. The bodily resurrection of Jesus also confirms that all those who are in Christ will be raised.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Remember that some of these concepts are fairly abstract and may take longer for the younger children to understand.

- Some children will struggle to understand eternity and the significance of the new heavens and the new earth. Be patient in helping them to understand Christian hope.
- This lesson engages with death. Be aware that this can be a difficult subject for children. Be particularly vigilant for those who have experienced the death of someone close to them.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Almighty God, I praise you for the truth of the resurrection. Thank you that, by raising Jesus from the dead, you declared his death a satisfactory atonement for sin. I rejoice that I can joyfully anticipate my own resurrection

and the hope of an eternity in your presence. Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they fully grasp the personal significance of the resurrection. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q50 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Candy
- Wrapping paper
- Tape



- Music that can be stopped and started
- A bunch of inflated balloons, two or three times the number of children in your class
- Markers
- Q50 Word Search (RB)
- Pictures of Joni Eareckson Tada
- Whiteboard and marker

Notes

10 Catechism Recap

Prepare a pass-the-present game. Wrap an assortment of candy in ten layers of paper. In between each layer put a catechism question from Q50 Catechism Recap (DL) and a small piece of candy.

Explain to the children that you're going to play pass the present. The game begins by the passing of the present in time with the music and stops with someone when the music stops playing. The child who has

the present can unwrap one layer and see the candy and the question. Children get to keep the candy (to be eaten later, only with a parent's permission) if they answer the question correctly. If they are unable to answer the question, someone else can have the opportunity to answer and win the candy. The music is then restarted and so the game continues until all layers have been unwrapped.

5 Introduction to Question 50

Ask the children, "What one thing can every single person be certain about in life?" Let them spend some time guessing, and if they don't get it, explain to them that it is death. There may be lots of things that people would like to happen in their lives, but in reality, there is only one thing that is predictable about every human life: everyone will die.

Explain that people generally don't like thinking about death. We often try to hide death. Cemeteries are hidden behind high walls, and death is described as "passing away" or "crossing over."

Tell the children that it's very important for Christians to think about death, because what Christians believe about death affects how they think about life. People who believe this life is all there is will be concerned to make the most of it, living primarily for pleasure, success, and happiness. Christians, however, understand that this life is not all there is. Christians believe in eternal life and should live with eternity in mind. That should make them stand out among those who think that there is nothing after death.

**Notes**

Introduce the children to Question 50: "What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?" Explain to the children that this

question will help them understand how Jesus's resurrection should shape and influence their lives.

10 Activity

Point out to the children that this week's catechism answer says Jesus *triumphed* over sin and death. Ask the children whether triumph means he was only slightly better than sin and death. Does it mean that he almost defeated death, but not quite? No! Triumph is a decisive defeat!

Bring out the balloons and markers. Ask the children to write SIN and DEATH on the balloons. Tell them that to help them remember how decisively Jesus triumphed over death, the class is now going to pop every single balloon! Have fun popping the balloons and celebrating the resurrection!

15 Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. Provide Bibles for the children to read along.

Explain to the children that Paul writes these words to the Thessalonian Christians for three reasons, and each reason can be found in this passage.

1. So that they will not be confused about what happens to Christians who die and so that the knowledge and understanding of what does happen to Christians when they die will help them to live differently from those who aren't Christians.
2. So that they will be able to have hope even when someone they know dies.

3. So that they would be able to help each other by reminding one another about their shared hope.

Explain to the children that Paul restates the core of the gospel to the Thessalonians to encourage them to have hope. In verse 14 he says, "We believe that Jesus died and rose again." Tell the children that the way people use the word *hope* is different from the way the Bible uses the word *hope*.

Ask the children what people like to hope for. A new bike? No homework? A trip to Disney World? Explain to the children that people hope for things but they have no idea whether they will come to fruition. To have Christian hope means to have confidence God will raise us from the dead, and that hope is based on God's Word.



Explain to the children that Christians know that, one day, either Jesus will return, or they will die. All Christians can know with certainty that they will spend forever with him.

Paul says that because of Jesus's resurrection, all Christians can confidently believe that one day they too will be raised from death. Jesus provides proof that there is life beyond the grave, and his triumph over sin and death guarantees that all who put their trust in him for the forgiveness of sin will be raised to

everlasting life. Explain to the children that when Jesus rose again on the third day, it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 50 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

Notes

10 Activity

You will need a copy of the Q50 Word Search and some markers

Give each child a copy of the word search and have them search for the words that make up the answer to Question 50.



Say the question and answer together when the children have finished the word search.

5 Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? What happens to those who aren't Christians when they die?

Explain to the children that everyone will be resurrected, but only those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus during their life will enter into eternity with Jesus. Those who didn't put their faith and trust in Jesus will face judgment and eternal separation from God in hell.

You may want to refer back to Question 28 for any discussions that may arise about those who die apart from Christ.

? But can we really know for certain that we will be resurrected like Jesus?

Reassure the children by telling them that we can be confident that God will raise us from the dead because he has raised Jesus! Jesus is described as the firstfruits, meaning he is the first to be raised, which tells us that there will be more resurrections to come.

**Notes**

Also use this opportunity to help the children think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Ask the children how Christian hope should affect the life of a Christian.

Should it help us face anxiety about death? Can anyone or anything threaten our eternal destiny?

- Ask the children what they think grieving with hope means.

Virtue Vision

Hope

You will need some pictures of Joni Eareckson Tada to show the children

Tell the children a little bit about Joni Eareckson Tada.

Joni is a woman who had a diving accident when she was seventeen years old that left her paralyzed from the neck down. After a significant struggle to come to terms with her paralysis, Joni finally believed that God had not forgotten her, and that he could use her for his glory. She started a Christian ministry to testify to God's grace and kindness and to point others to Jesus.

Explain to the children that one of the things Joni thinks about a lot is heaven and the new creation. Read these two quotes from Joni's book *Heaven: Your Real Home* to the children:

I still can hardly believe it. I, with shriveled, bent fingers, atrophied



muscles, gnarled knees, and no feeling from the shoulders down, will one day have a new body, light, bright, and clothed in righteousness—powerful and dazzling. . . . It's easy for me to "be joyful in hope," as it says in Romans 12:12, and that's exactly what I've been doing for the past twenty-odd years. My assurance of heaven is so alive that I've been making dates with friends to do all sorts of fun things once we get our new bodies. . . .

I don't take these appointments lightly. I'm convinced these things will really happen.¹

Explain to the children that the Christian hope makes a huge difference to Joni's life. She knows that when she is raised from the dead, she will be given a new body that can do all the things her paralyzed body cannot.

Ask the children how Christian hope might affect how they live.

1. Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven: Your Real Home* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), 53, 55.



10 **Memory Activity**

You will need a large piece of paper or a whiteboard to write on.

Write out the memory verse or catechism question and answer without vowels. Invite

the children to suggest where the vowels should go. Once all the vowels have been inserted, read the memory verse through several times with the children.

Notes

5 **Closing Prayer Time**

Invite the children to pray, giving thanks for the resurrection and for Christian hope.

