



4.24.11/1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 55-57
Easter Message

Materials:

Soap, water, and a sink

Opening Activity

Ask the children to tell you of a time where they won a game. Ask them how they felt when they won the game. Tell them Jesus' death was a great victory for God. Tonight they will learn about how God won a victory through Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 55-57

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Question 1

How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead?

He appeared to Cephas, James, Paul as well as all the twelve disciples. He also appeared to more than five hundred people.

Question 2

Why did Jesus choose to die?

The punishment for sin is death. Jesus was a sinless man whose death and resurrection was God's ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Because Jesus died on the cross we are now forgiven our sins if we believe that He is Lord and that He was raised from the dead (Romans 10:9). When we are saved, we are made righteous before God. Jesus loved us even while we were sinning against Him. That's some amazing love!

Question 3

How should we respond knowing that Jesus died for us?

When we follow Jesus, we receive His Holy Spirit, which changes us to be more like Him! The Spirit allows us to understand God's Word, so we seek God by reading the Bible. Jesus now lets us communicate with God the Father, so we pray as well. Jesus lived the perfect life that we couldn't live on our own without Him, and He now helps us live a life that honors God.

Passage Activity:

Explain to the children that throughout the day they have touched several things that have put germs on their hands. Have each child look at their hands. Explain to them that they cannot always see the germs because they are so small. Sometimes you can see the dirt and yuck. Tell them that sin in our heart is the same way. Have the children pretend their hands represent their hearts. Explain to them that as they wash their hands they are washing away their dirt and germs just like Jesus' death and resurrection wash away our sins and make our hearts clean just like the soap and water makes our hands clean. Then explain to them that when Jesus washes us clean, He makes us TOTALLY clean. We may have to wash our hands all the time, but when Jesus gives us a new heart and washes us clean, it's done PERFECTLY and for all time!

**Wrap Up:**

Pray with the children encouraging them to confess their sins in the name of Christ and be forgiven by God. Remind them that when Jesus died on the cross he has already freed them from their sins. Close in prayer with a confession time (individually, or as a group, depending on everyone's comfort level). Acknowledge that on our own we will always fall short of God's standard of perfection. Thank God for His plan of redemption, and for His mercy that saves us from the judgment that we all deserve. If someone in the group would like to know more about what it means to believe that Jesus is Lord and that He came back to life to save us, encourage them to ask their parents to tell them more about this!