



UNIT TWO: I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 6: Christ's Resurrection: New Life for Us!

CONTENTS OF LESSON:

1. After Jesus was buried, he descended to 'hell' or the 'abode of the dead' (Sheol or Hades). This is not the hell of the damned. Jesus went there to free all the just who had died before. [CCC633, 635]
2. After three days he rose from the dead. The first sign of the Resurrection was the empty tomb. After this, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples. This fact has been attested to historically by many witnesses. [CCC639-644]
3. Christ's risen body was a real body, which could be seen and touched; but it was different from ours: a 'heavenly body' which would never die again. [CCC645-646; *Youcat*107]
4. With the Resurrection of Jesus, death lost its power over him and over us, who believe in him.  *We can live a victorious life here on earth and conquer sin.* [CCC654]
5. After 40 days Jesus ascended into heaven, and is in heaven 'at the right hand of the Father'. He intercedes for us and leads us to heaven. Though not present in human form, he is with us always, as he promised. [CCC663-667]
6. At the end of time, there will first be a time of tribulation and testing. After this, Christ will come in glory and bring justice and peace. He will judge each person according to his acceptance or refusal of his grace. [CCC680-682; *Youcat* 111-112]
7.  *Christ calls us to believe in him and await his final coming, always trying to live our lives for him, conquering sin with his power.*

REFERENCES: Psalm 139:7-8. Matt 24:3-14, 29-31; 28:16-20. Luke 24:1-9, 36-43. John 11:25; 14:2-3. Romans 6:4, 11. 1Cor15:3-6. Rev 21:3-4.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, Bibles. Movie: 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. (Optional)

I. STARTER:

[If possible, the movie 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' is shown to the students and the lesson is conducted after it is viewed. Alternatively, after a short introduction, the relevant part of the movie is shown, i.e. the death of Aslan till the victory over the queen.]

- Has anyone seen the movie 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' from the 'Chronicles of Narnia'? Or have you read the book? The story sounds like a fairytale for children, but it is connected to real life and Christianity. The author is C.S. Lewis, a brilliant Christian writer.
- In the story, the lion called Aslan gives himself over to the power of the White Witch. This is in exchange for the life of a human boy, Edmund. The witch ties Aslan up, shaves off his mane and kills him on a stone table. The witch and her followers think they have won, but as the sun rises, the stone table cracks and Aslan becomes alive again.
He leaps around, and everywhere he goes flowers spring up. The first thing that Aslan does after returning to life is to fly to the witch's castle which is full of stone statues: animals and other creatures whom the witch has turned to stone.
Aslan goes around to each statue and as he breathes on them, life returns. The creatures begin to breathe and walk, shout and dance. Then they all join Aslan in the final battle against the witch and her army. Of course, they are victorious!
- Can you guess how this story connects to Jesus? *[Accept students ideas and bring out:]*
 - Aslan is like Jesus, who gave up his life in exchange for our freedom.
 - When he rose again, the power of death was broken. (The stone table cracking.)
 - After Jesus died he went down to the dead (stone statues) to free them too.
 - Jesus will come again one day and then evil will totally be defeated.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Today we come to the last part of Jesus' story. What happened after Jesus died? What do the different events mean for us? Let's try and find out.

[Follow the same procedure as in the last lesson. Give out the handout with the questions [6A] and ask the students to suggest answers. After this give out the handout with the quotes [6B] and answer the questions together using the quotes. Make sure the Bible passages and quotes are read aloud. Bring out:]

1. Why do we say that Jesus descended into 'hell'?
 - 'Hell' in scripture (Sheol or Hades) meant the place where the dead go, not the 'hell' for those who have refused God.
 - Jesus descended to free all the just people who had already died before him, right from the time of Adam and Eve.
2. Why do we believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
 - The first sign was the empty tomb.
 - Later Jesus personally met the apostles and many other people.
 - This has been recorded in writing soon after it happened.
 - Through the centuries, and even today, people have seen Jesus in visions and know that he is not dead, but alive.
3. Did Jesus have a body like ours after he rose?
 - Yes and no. Yes, He had a body which the disciples could touch. No it was not exactly like ours, but a 'heavenly' body, which would never die again.
4. How does the Resurrection make a difference?
 - Death lost its power over Jesus and over us who belong to Jesus. We too will rise.
 - We can live a victorious new life here on earth: We can conquer sin with Jesus' power.
5. What does the Ascension mean for Jesus? For us?
 - Jesus left this world and is with the Father in glory, till he comes at the end of time.
 - From heaven, he leads us to God.
 - Although he is not visible to us he is still with us, as he promised.
6. What will happen when the world ends?
 - At first there will be a time of trouble and our faith will be tested.
 - Then Christ will come as king and judge. He will set everything right and bring justice and peace.
 - Jesus will judge each one according to their hearts and lives: whether they have accepted him or refused him.

III. INTERIORISATION/PRAYER:

- Go over all we have read and written. Focus on one thought that is especially meaningful to you. Write it down and then we will share it with one person.

[Students spend at least 5 minutes reflecting in silence. After this they share with another student one idea that struck them personally. After a few minutes, there is another period of silence, where students write a prayer in response to God.]

HOME ASSIGNMENT:

- ⇒ Pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary with your family.
Explain to them the meaning of the Resurrection.
- ⇒ Revise all the lessons of Unit 2 for a test (6 lessons).