

Easter Lesson for 4-7 year olds
“Friday was Sad, but Sunday was Glad!”

Theme: The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Teacher Pep Talk: How wonderful! You are going to teach children about the first Easter! It is an awesome and holy thing to teach little ones about Jesus and about His Death, Burial, and Resurrection. These make up the foundation of the Gospel Message! **God bless you!**

Be sure to pray beforehand, and prepare your own heart to present these precious truths to these precious children. God bless you!

NOTE: Whenever you teach children about the Crucifixion of Jesus, it is important to teach them about His Resurrection **during the same lesson!** Be sure to teach them **both** on the same day!

To prepare to teach this lesson read over John chapters 19 and 20, giving special attention to the following verses: John 19:41-42 and John 20:11-18.

You will Need: Paper, construction paper, crayons, pencils, and glue

Major Points: One Friday, Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
Jesus was buried on that same day.
Everyone who loved Jesus was sad!
But... On that Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead!
Everyone who loved Jesus was glad!
We can be glad too!
We can live forever with Him

Reference Verses: John Chapters 19 and 20 (John 19:41-42, and John 20:11-18)

Lesson: “Friday was Sad, but Sunday was Glad”

One Friday, Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

- One Friday, Jesus lay down His life for us.
- He died on a cross to pay for our sins
- Sins are when we do something on purpose that we know is wrong.
- A sin isn't the same thing as a mistake or an “oops”.
- [NOTE: talk to your class some about sin, depending on *the level of understanding in your group.*]

Jesus was buried on that same day.

- On the same day Jesus died, his friends buried him in a tomb.
- Jesus' tomb was probably like a little cave in a hill with a big rock rolled in front of it.

Everyone who loved Jesus was sad.

- Everyone who loved Jesus was sad: the disciples, his family, and his friends.
- *[Discuss death and burial with your class a little. The children may have had family members who have died and been buried. If not, they may have had a family pet that died. Talk about sad feelings that we may have when people we know and love die.]*
- Just like we are sad, if someone we know and love dies, after Jesus died all the people who knew and loved Him were very sad.

But...On that Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead!

- On the Sunday after Friday... *[Count on your fingers: "Friday... Saturday... Sunday." Show three fingers: One for each day.]*
- On the Sunday after Friday, or as they say in the Bible "On the third day" *[Hold up three fingers again. Children repeat.]*
- On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead!
- What does that mean? It means that Jesus wasn't dead anymore! It means that Jesus was not in the tomb anymore!
- Let's find out how it happened!
- On Sunday... or on the third day... *[Hold up three fingers]* ...some people, who were friends of Jesus, came to the tomb.
- But the tomb was empty! Where was Jesus? No one knew!
- A woman named Mary was there. She was crying outside the empty tomb.
- Mary looked inside the tomb and saw 2 angels.
- "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked. They told her that Jesus wasn't there anymore, but that He was ALIVE!
- Mary turned around and saw a man... it was JESUS!
- He was alive again! Mary was very glad!

Everyone was glad!

- Jesus had risen from the dead!
- He was alive forever!
- Everyone who knew and loved Jesus was glad!

We can be glad too!

- We can be glad that Jesus rose from the dead.

Because of what Jesus did, we can live with Him forever!

Prayer: Let's pray and thank God that we can live with Jesus forever.

(Have the children repeat the lines after you.)

Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you that Jesus is alive.
Thank you that we can live with Him forever.
Amen.

Activities: *(Choose the ones that work best for your classroom.)*

"Friday was Sad, but Sunday was Glad!" Card

The idea is to make a nice Easter Card for family members or friends, by using the attached coloring sheets.

If possible, copy the two pages so that they are on the FRONT AND BACK of the same sheet of paper for each child. Then just fold the paper in half to make the card. If this is not possible, simply print off both pages for each child. Have the children decorate the pages and glue them together back to back to create the card, or cut out both decorated sections and glue them on a folded piece of construction paper to make the card.

For **older children** encourage them to decorate the cross by doing something creative like drawing flowers across it or writing Jesus' name on it. Also encourage them to draw Jesus alive on the inside of the card, near the empty tomb.

Color in the words "Happy Easter!" If you have access to some flower stickers, or some tiny silk flowers, those could be used to decorate the cross on the front of the card.

Learn the Days of the Week:

Just like in the lesson, hold up your fingers to count off the days of the week with the children. Start with the first day of the week, Sunday. Hold up one finger for each day as you count off the days of the week.

Say the days of the week with the children:

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

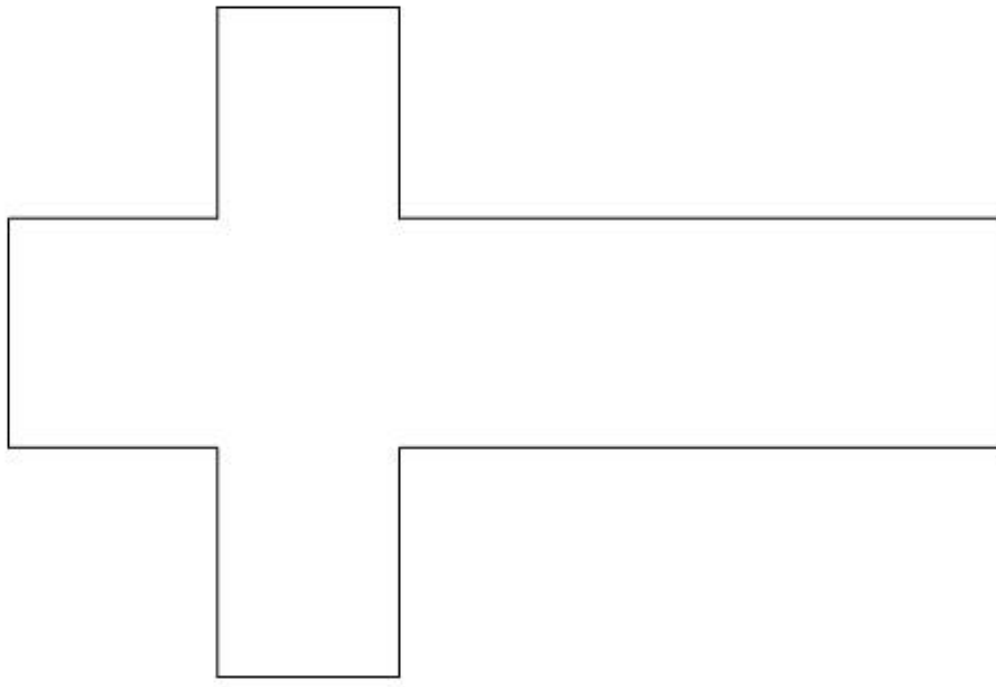
How many days of the week are there? *(Seven)*

Let's count them again. *(Repeat)*

Remind the children of what you learned in the lesson:

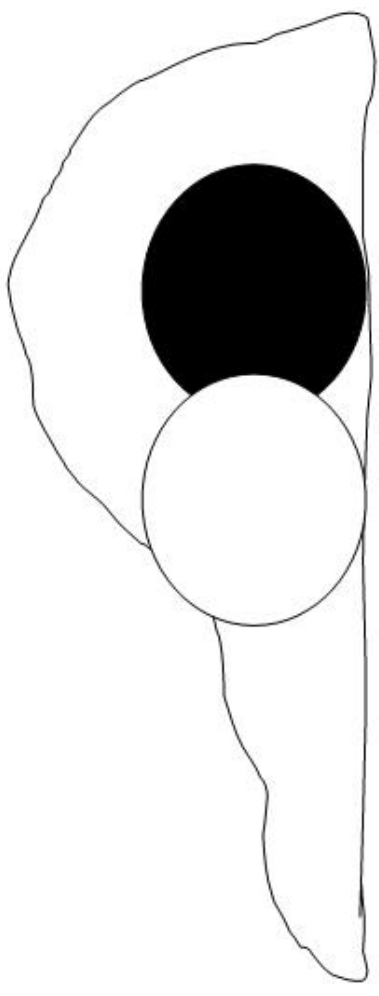
Jesus died and was buried on a Friday. He was raised from the dead on the following Sunday. It was the third day. Friday, Saturday, Sunday *(Three days.)*

Friday was Sad!



But...

Sunday was Glad!



Happy Easter!

Activities (continued):

Glad (Not Sad) Easter Egg Hunt:

Before class: Obtain empty plastic Easter Eggs, enough to have 2-3 for each child in class. Place tiny objects in the eggs that remind the children that Jesus loves them! *(For instance, you could include little slips of paper with the words “Jesus Loves You” on them, or tiny cross stickers, or other stickers that have to do with Easter or with Love. You may also choose to add candies, etc, to the eggs. If so, SEE NOTE!)*

NOTE: If you decide to include candies or treats in any of the Easter Eggs, be sure to **follow any guidelines your church may have** regarding the distribution of candy or treats to children. If you have any questions, please confer in advance with the Children’s Ministry team leader or the church staff.

Do **NOT** include NUTS of any kind with the treats. Some children may have nut allergies, and there is ALWAYS a danger of choking with young children.

Hide the eggs around the classroom or in a location near the classroom where the children may safely search for them at the end of the lesson.

During class: Tell the children that “Just like the women went to search for Jesus at the tomb, we will go and search for Easter Eggs. The women went expecting to find something SAD (Jesus still in the tomb) but instead the women found something that was GLAD (Jesus was alive again! The tomb was EMPTY!)”

When the children discover all the eggs and they have been divided more or less evenly among them, show the children that there are wonderful GLAD things inside of them! Read some of the slips of paper which say “Jesus Loves You!” and eat some of the delicious candy! Remind the children that “BECAUSE of the Resurrection, Easter morning is GLAD, NOT SAD!”

Sing a Happy Song:

Sing “This is the Day” (that the LORD hath Made) with the children. Talk about how we are happy on Easter because of all that God has done on this wonderful day!

This is the day (This is the day)
That the LORD hath made (That the LORD hath made.)
I will rejoice (I will rejoice)
And be glad in it (and be glad in it)

This is the day that the LORD hath made.
I will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day,
This is the day, that the LORD hath made!