

## Jesus Is Our Savior

March-April 2016

For Preschool & Kindergarten Parents and Teachers

Jesus helps us understand His love for each of us and our need for a Savior. May these stories help you to focus on the cost of Jesus' sacrifice, the celebration of His resurrection, and the amazing truth that Jesus is our Savior.

**Jesus Chose Helpers** – Matthew 4:18-22; 9:35-10:10 As Jesus began His ministry, He invited some people to join His work. Jesus said, "Come, follow Me, I want you to be my helpers" and twelve different men said "Yes!" They were not trained or polished professionals, but rather common ordinary men who recognized the truth Jesus taught. Willing to change their lives, and follow Jesus, sharing the message of the "good news," the disciples changed the world. Obedience to God's call today asks the same of you and me – be Jesus' helper and share the "good news." Talk with your child about how they can be a Jesus helper today.

**Jesus' Special Supper** – Mathew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples on the night before He was arrested. In obedience to God, Jesus prepared His disciples for His coming death. Jesus established Himself as the final and ultimate Passover Lamb. As He shared the cup and the bread with his disciples, Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Jesus told His disciples to remember: Remember you are My disciples; Remember how much I love you; Remember to tell others about Me; Remember we will be together again because the cross is not the end. What do you need to "remember" today as you think of Jesus and His call on your life? What plans, thoughts and attitudes do you need to obediently submit to Him as you remember He is your Savior?

**The Triumphal Entry** – Matthew 21:1-11 As Jesus nears His time of death, He triumphantly entered Jerusalem not on a white horse but on a donkey. Humble, and submitting to God's plan, Jesus enters the city to the cheers of the crowd. Some spread their coats on the road while others cut branches from palm trees and spread them on the road. Many were hoping for a hero who would overthrow the Roman government and restore the kingdom of Israel. People shouted "Hosanna" as He rode by. Jesus was both a Servant and a Savior. He leaves us a model to follow. Look for ways to help your children identify with the Servant Messiah as well as Savior Jesus.



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**Jesus is Alive** – Matthew 27:15-28:10 Just as the angel said and the women that came to Jesus' empty tomb discovered, Jesus was no longer dead but alive! Through Jesus' three year ministry He told of God's plan. Now His disciples, steeped in sorrow, would begin to understand that Jesus was indeed their Messiah, their risen Savior. They could rejoice. During the time immediately following Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to the women who had come to prepare Him for burial. Can you imagine their excitement as they returned to tell His disciples, He's alive! Today the story of Jesus' resurrection gets muddled with the Easter Bunny, pretty clothes and family dinners. What will you do to cut through the seasonal frivolity to teach your children the true significance of Easter Sunday, the day our Savior, Jesus, was resurrected according to God's plan?

**Jesus Met Two Disciples on the Road** – Luke 24:13-35 Two men were walking to the town of Emmaus. They were talking about all that had taken place with Jesus, when someone (Jesus, but they did not recognize him) joined them. They continued to talk about Jesus. Later as they shared a meal together, their eyes and hearts were opened and their recognized Jesus. They knew, "He is alive!" It is difficult to understand how Jesus was alive because they had seen Him die on the cross. Yet He is alive! How can we believe Jesus is alive even though we have not seen Him? Hebrews 11:1 says it is by faith we understand, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Talk about Jesus being alive with your children. Help them see your faith in this truth so one day they can know this truth for themselves.

**Breakfast with Jesus** – (John 21:14) One day some of the disciples were together. Fishing all night, they didn't catch a single fish. But at dawn, a man on the shore told them, "Cast your nets on the right side of the boat." To their amazement when they did the net was full of large fish. Right then, John recognized Jesus. When they got to the shore, Jesus invited them to "come and eat breakfast" and enjoy fellowship together. Life for the disciples, and life today, tends to get confusing and messy. As your children face disappointment, discouragement, and difficulties, share with them how Jesus is nearby and wants to help them through struggles they encounter. Recognizing His presence in the circumstances will make all the difference in the world in how struggles are handled.

Jesus is a very personal Savior – One who came to walk among us and help us understand what He desires of us. His message is one of hope, encouragement and love. As we follow Him and as we study His life and words, we recognize His plan for us is to do as He did—sharing hope, encouragement and love. Take time daily to help your children experience life knowing that Jesus is our Savior.

By: Vicki Rainbow and Joyce Oliver

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