

middle school



April 12, 2020

Surprise!

By Frieda Nossaman

for use as

STEP 1



Lesson

Focus:

Surprise! He's alive!

Lesson

Bible Basis:

Luke 24:1-12

Lesson

Memory Verse:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

—Luke 24:5b-6a

Students will watch a video about some surprising facts as an introduction to a lesson on Jesus' surprising resurrection from the dead.

Materials:

Internet access

As students join your group today, share a surprising but true event that happened to you. If you do not have a story, feel free to share one or both of the following true examples that happened to friends of this Real Life Downloaded lesson author, provided here:

- A widowed young man sought out a female companion online only to find that she and his deceased wife had at one time been bridesmaids together at a wedding of a mutual friend.
- Two high school friends who hadn't seen each other in 20 years realized on a road trip that they were both pumping gasoline next to each other at a gas station in a state where neither of them lived...but both of them just happened to be passing through on a family vacation!

If time permits, invite your students to share surprising stories of their own with the rest of the group.

The following video clip is about surprising facts that are hard to believe. They are true though. We'll discuss later about what was hardest to believe!

Share the following video [3:49]:

25 Unbelievably Hard to Believe Facts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwiyBI6reKc>

➤ **What hard-to-believe fact did you find most surprising?** (Answers will vary.)

Learning surprising facts is just that: Surprising! Let's take a look at the most surprising fact of all time!

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 

Lesson Focus:
Surprise! He's alive!

Lesson Bible Basis:
Luke 24:1-12

Lesson Memory Verse:
"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!
—Luke 24:5b-6a

Materials:

- Internet access
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

Although Jesus had predicted His own resurrection on numerous occasions, the women and the disciples did not understand what He was saying so they were very surprised to find the tomb empty.

➤ **How do you think you would have reacted when you found the tomb empty that morning? Why?** (Allow students to share what they think it might have been like.)

Have your students look up and read Romans 8:11: If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit, who lives in you (Romans 8:11).

Have your students copy the following on an index card or piece of paper: *God raised Jesus from the dead, and He will raise _____, too.* Encourage each student to write their name in the blank on their index card.

➤ **In times of uncertainty like what we've been facing with the coronavirus, how can these words encourage us?** (Allow students to share; some may mention finding it comforting that God is in control over death, that He has a plan and future for us, etc.)

Make yourself available to meet with any student who expresses a desire to talk with someone about salvation. Use this week as an opportunity to get more directly connected with your students via emails, texts, and/or video chats. Challenge your students to reach out to their friends using these methods to share the Gospel. Encourage them in the fact that this unprecedented circumstance is a unique opportunity where people are open to the Gospel as never before.

End your time together thanking Jesus for His resurrection and the life it brings to us.

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