

Easter Sunday Lesson

The Miracle of the Resurrection

Scripture Text: Matthew 28:1-7

Bible Verse: “He is not here: for he is risen” (Matthew 28:6).

POWER Line: Jesus is alive!

Before the Lesson

- Write the words to the songs for this service on a flip chart or transparency for overhead projector.
- Create a “visual meter” by cutting a half circle out of posterboard. Make three pie-shaped sections on the half circle labeled “trick,” “scientific fact,” and “miracle.” Attach an arrow with a brad at the bottom so that it can be moved to point to any of the sections.
- Place a couple of coins inside a small metal box (Altoids™). Attach this box to your arm under your sleeve with a couple of strong rubber bands. Place a similar empty box on your Bible. Practice the object lesson so you can move without rattling the box unintentionally.
- Collect several toilet paper tubes.
- Fill a plastic egg with small wrapped candies.

Supplies

- *Kids in Praise 1* CD
- Flip chart or transparency and overhead projector

- Easter basket
- Two small tins (Altoids™)
- A couple of coins
- Butcher paper
- Markers, crayons, chalk
- Plastic egg filled with small wrapped candies
- Raisins on a plate
- Carbonated water
- Clear glass

I. POWER of Worship

A. Welcome

B. Praise Generator: “Woke Up This Morning”

C. Offering

D. Truth Conductor: Magic Trick

E. Energy Outlet: Hot Potato (Egg)

F. Truth Conductor: Scientific Fact

II. POWER of the Word

A. Bible Memorization

- Easter Banner

B. Illustrated Sermon

- Object Lesson: Resurrection
- Truth Conductor: Miracle

C. Invitation Prayer

POWER of Worship

Welcome

As each child enters ask him, **Have you heard the**

news? Do not tell him the news, just say, **It's a miracle!**

Lead children in worship songs. Suggestion: "Woke Up This Morning" from the *Kids in Praise 1* CD.

Today we are going to look at situations that we could call magic tricks, scientific facts, or miracles. Move the arrow on the visual meter to miracle.

- **What is a miracle?**
- **What are some examples of miracles?**
- **Have you ever seen a miracle?**

When we talk about tricks, scientific facts, and miracles we will use this visual meter to help us see which event we are talking about.

Offering

Well, it looks like the lights are on in this room today. I guess somebody paid the light bill. And there was water in the water fountain when I tried to get a drink. Someone must have paid the water bill. No tricks, scientific facts, or miracles involved there. The Lord could perform a miracle and make the lights come on, but He doesn't do that. He expects us to give offerings to help keep this church going. Whether you put in two cents or twenty dollars, know that your offering is important to the work of the Lord. Use an Easter basket to receive the offering.

Truth Conductor: Magic Trick

Using the hand that has the box hidden under your sleeve, pick up the empty box on the table and shake it. **Hmmm. I wonder what is in this box? Sounds like money.**

What do you think? Open the box and show it to the students. **It's empty! Why did it rattle?**

Close the box and pick up your Bible with the other hand. Shake it, then put the Bible down. **Nothing shaking there.** Pick up the box again (with your noisy hand) and shake it. Open the box again and show it to the students. **Still empty.** Point to the visual meter. **So, is this a trick, a scientific fact, or a miracle?** Move the visual meter as the students direct.

This was a trick. Nothing scientific or miraculous about it. Magicians are not supposed to explain their tricks, but I'm going to tell you my secret. Show the hidden box. **Now do you all agree that this was a trick? Maybe we'll see a miracle before the class is over!**

Energy Outlet

Ask children to form a circle. Play this version of Hot Potato. As you play the music, children pass a plastic egg filled with candy. Whoever has the egg when the music stops, says the POWER line, ***Jesus is alive***, opens the egg, and takes out a piece of candy. Continue until everyone has said the POWER line. Form two circles if you have a large class.

Truth Conductor: Scientific Fact

Give each child a cardboard tube. If you have a large class let students share. **Let's use our visual meter again.**

Pick an object across the room to focus on. Hold the tube up to one eye; place the palm of one hand about an inch from the end of the tube. Now focus on the object

across the room. Let students focus for several moments.

- **What do you see?**

- **Is there a hole in the middle of your hand?** (A hole should appear in the hand.)

Is this a trick, a scientific fact, or a miracle? Move the arrow on the visual meter as students direct. **Is this another one of my magic tricks?**

This is a scientific fact. Your eyes work with your brain. One of your eyes sees a distant object through the tube. The other eye sees your palm. The brain creates an optical illusion. There isn't really a hole in your hand. Aren't you glad? Move the arrow to scientific fact.

POWER of the Word

Bible Memorization

Stretch a long piece of butcher paper on the wall. Write the Bible Verse in large block letters across the top of the paper. Provide markers, crayons, chalk, etc., for children to write with on the paper. (Make sure the markers will not bleed through the paper onto the wall.) Today's Bible Verse is easy for children to remember. Ask them to copy the words in their own handwriting and decorate the paper with flowers, butterflies, and other spring decorations. Younger children can just decorate the banner. As children work, play worship music and encourage them to sing along. Hang the banner in the church hall or somewhere else where it will be seen.

Illustrated Sermon

What do you know about Easter? Allow children to tell what they know. Accept all responses without judgment.

Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Do you know what *resurrection* means? It means “to rise again.” Show the plate of raisins. **These raisins have no life—they are just lying on the plate. Watch what happens when I put them in this glass of carbonated water.** Pour carbonated water into a glass and add the raisins. The raisins will float a few seconds then sink to the bottom. In a minute or so the raisins will rise back to the top then sink again. **Looks like the raisins are alive! Is that a trick, scientific fact, or miracle? Actually, it’s a scientific fact that causes the raisins to rise again. The carbonated water has gas in it that causes the raisins to be lifted up. When the raisins get to the surface, the gas is released and the raisins sink again. The process is repeated over and over. *Resurrection* means “rise again.”**

Move the visual meter to scientific fact.

Jesus was crucified—that means He was nailed to a cross and left there to die. Being crucified was a punishment for criminals like murderers and thieves. But Jesus was none of these. He committed no sin and did nothing wrong. He healed people of all kinds of diseases. He taught the Word of God. He changed people’s lives. But some leaders were jealous because the people loved Him. They were afraid that Jesus would take over, so they crucified Him. But that was all part of the plan. Jesus was

born so that He could die for your sins. He took your place on the cross. You might not be a murderer or a thief, but you have committed sin. The Bible says, “The soul that sins shall die.” Jesus died for your sins.

Jesus was buried in a tomb—something like a cave with a big stone rolled over the opening.

Three days after Jesus was buried some women went to the tomb with spices to put on Jesus’ body. Read Matthew 28:1-6 out loud.

- **How could this be?**
- **Was this a trick, a scientific fact, or a miracle?**
- **How should we set our visual meter?**

Jesus’ resurrection was a miracle. His resurrection shows God’s power over death.

Invitation and Prayer

Easter is not about the Easter bunny, Easter eggs, or candy. It’s about God’s power over death and over sin. *Jesus is alive.* Jesus’ resurrection gives us the opportunity to have eternal life.

If you want to experience God’s power over sin in your life, come to the front and we will pray with you.

***Jesus is alive.* You can have a miracle in your life today.**

Easter Sunday is a great day for children to receive the Holy Ghost and experience the resurrection power in their lives. Play “Jesus Reign in Me” from *Kids in Praise 2* CD.