



Resurrection

19th Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Notebooks; Handout; 1 brown lunch bag per student; one item per bag (that fits inside the bag) that can be found in the house but is not easily identifiable by touch (examples: a 3.5 floppy disc, a compact mirror, a child's action figure doll, if you play a musical instrument – some sort of piece that goes with it, like a metronome); writing utensils; 8.5x11 paper for each student;

OPENING Activity: What's Inside?

Prep: Get one lunch bag per person in the class. In each bag, put one household item that is not easily identifiable), then roll the top closed and staple it shut.

EXPLAIN Activity

- On the table, here, you see # rolled-up and stapled brown bags.
- We will, in a moment, get into pairs.
- Then, one person of your pair will get up and get a bag.
- **You will hold and carry the bag back by ONLY holding the bag at the top.**
- Once, that person picks up the bag and returns, set the bag on the ground.
- Now, the other person gets up and gets his/her own bag.
- Again, you may only hold and carry the bag by the top of the bag.
- Once both of you have a bag, you will have four rounds to guess what's in the bag.

ROUND 1

- 1st partner, pick up the bag by your feet **BY THE TOP**.
 - Now, 2nd partner, simply by looking at the bag, make your guess as to what you think is inside that bag.
 - Be as specific as possible. What is it? How big is it? What color is it? How old is it? What's it smell like? And so on...
 - Write it all down
 - [give them 30 to 60 seconds]
- Now, 1st partner, put your bag down and 2nd partner pick up your bag **BY THE TOP**.
 - 1st partner, now it's your turn.
 - Guess what's in the bag. Be as specific as possible.
 - Write it down.
 - [give them 30 to 60 seconds]
- Once you are done, 2nd partner, put the bag down.
- Congratulations, you have just completed Round 1.

ROUND 2

- 1st partner, its time to pick up the bag by your feet **BY THE TOP**
 - Now, hand it over to your partner.

- 2nd partner, by holding the bag at the top, make your guess as to what's inside.
- You may shake the bag, but you may not turn it upside down.
- You may not touch the bag anywhere other than at the top.
- Write down your guess. Make it as specific as possible.
- 1st partner, take back the bag, put it down.
- 2nd partner, pick up the bag by your feet BY THE TOP and pass it over to your partner.
 - 1st partner, by holding the bag at the top, make your guess as to what's inside.
 - You may shake the bag, but you may not turn it upside down.
 - You may not touch the bag anywhere other than at the top.
 - Write down your guess. Make it as specific as possible.
- 2nd partner, take back the bag, put it down.
- Congratulations! You have completed Round 2!

ROUND 3

- 1st partner, pick up the bag by your feet and hand it to your partner
 - 2nd partner, through the bag, feel the object.
 - Make your guess as specific as possible and write it down
- Once you are done, repeat the process vice versa.

ROUND 4

- 1st partner, pick up the bag by your feet.
 - Open it up but **DO NOT SHOW** what is inside to your partner.
 - Give a one word clue to your partner as to what it is.
 - 2nd partner, make your guess as specific as possible and write it down.
- Once you're done, repeat the process vice versa.
- Then, partners, open up your bags and see how you did on guessing!

ASK

- How hard was it to accurately guess your object in Round 1?
 - Round 2? Round 3? Round 4?
- Did you correctly guess the object? If yes, in what round did you correctly guess the object?
- Exactly how close did you come to guessing the details about your object?
- What made it so hard to guess in the first round? (lack of info/data)
- What was it during the subsequent rounds that made it easier to guess? (more data)
- We'll talk about this more, but first...

OPENING PRAYER

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK REVIEW

We were to think about:

- What habits bind your hands that you want to stop but can't? What spiritual discipline would you like to become a new habit to replace the old habit(s) that you want to stop?

REVIEW

- Themes and concepts of the stories we've talked about recently in class:
 - The Last Supper happens on the night Jesus is arrested. The Last Supper is the Passover meal, and Jesus equates his body and blood with the lambs of the Passover story. Jesus during this meal demonstrates the "take, bless, break, give" pattern that if lived out/practiced will bring communion to a community.
 - Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane asking that God "remove this cup." God does not remove the cup. Therefore Jesus allows himself to be arrested by the Jewish authorities and brought to the *house* of the high priest. Jesus is betrayed by Judas, abandoned by the disciples and denied by Peter. Everything's falling apart. At this point in the story, Jesus' obedience to God's call is detrimental to his well-being.
 - Jesus is found not guilty by Pilate and by Herod, but he is beaten and mocked. However, due to fears of the crowd, Pilate sentences Jesus to death. We discussed two perspectives of why Jesus was crucified: 1. He died for our sins. 2. He died because of our sins.
 - Jesus is crucified. He is lifted up on the cross. We talked about how habits are formed by repetition. The more we repeat a habit, the harder it is to break the habit. Jesus challenges these habits by saying "Follow me." If we do follow Jesus, the habits Jesus teaches us replace the habits we've had. This is not easy and often can feel like part of us is dying.

TELL

- During these last number of weeks, we have been paying attention to the last week of Jesus' life and ministry. It started with what we call "Palm Sunday." Today, we're going to read and talk about Jesus' Resurrection.

READ John 20:1-25

1 Early in the morning on the first day of the week (Sunday), while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. 2 She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

3 Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. 4 They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. 5 Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb and observed the linen cloths lying there. 7 The kerchief used to cover Jesus' head was not lying with the linen cloths but was separate, neatly folded by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. 9 No one yet knew from the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. 10 The disciples then went back home.

11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" 14 After she saw this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him. 15 Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him,

tell me where you put him so I can care for him." 16 Jesus said, "Mary." Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!" 17 Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

19 Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." 20 Then he showed them his hands and side. 21 Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." 22 Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. 23 "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?" 24 But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master." But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

ASK

- Verse 1, who is the first one to notice that Jesus' body is missing? (Mary)
- Who does she tell? (the disciples)
- Do they believe her? (Not really, otherwise why would they go look for themselves? But they believe her enough to actually go check...)
- Who is the first person to see Jesus? (again, Mary)
- Verse 18, do you think the disciples believed her this time when she tells them? (Probably not – though they are gathered together)
- Throughout Jesus' ministry, he interacts with the disciples, the crowd and the Pharisees. But now, on the other side of the cross, who does Jesus show himself to? (the disciples and only the disciples)
- Why do you think this might be? (perspective. What you choose to look at and focus on determines what you see. Also, the crowd and the Pharisees crucified Jesus. That means they gave up on him. Plus, if they saw him again, they would only want to kill him again. Resurrection is seen only by those who chose to follow Jesus. By following Jesus they were prepared to have eyes to see with).
- When Jesus appears to the disciples, what does he show them? (his hands and side where his wounds were/are)
- Why do you think he does this? (to prove to them that it is he, Jesus – just like in the opening activity, more information helps us to identify the thing in front of us)
- When the disciples tell Thomas (who wasn't there), does he believe them? (nope)
- So, what is the prevailing emotion of all the characters except Jesus in this story? (they don't believe. They are critical, doubtful, fearful).
- Who are they tending to not believe? (each other)
- Who is the one who helps them to see? (Jesus)
- If the disciples are having such a hard time believing, why wouldn't we? (this is mostly a rhetorical question, but answers are welcome)
- Thinking back to our opening activity, what helped us to "see" the object in the bag? (weight, feeling, hints from witnesses)

- How might that relate to this story and to us? (if we, too, choose to follow Jesus, then we will be prepared to be able to better identify the clues and data that helps us to see Resurrected Jesus)

TELL

- So if we think about the opening activity, the disciples, by having followed Jesus, are more like round 4 – there’s a familiarity that they have with Jesus that allows them to get closer to understanding who Jesus is. Then, come Resurrection time, because of their previous learning and thinking about Jesus, the disciples are the only ones who can recognize the Resurrected Jesus. Because the concept of Resurrection is so far outside our comprehension, we need previous knowledge in order to recognize Jesus on the other side of the cross.

SNACK

EXPLAIN activity “Yes, and…”

- This is a improvisational activity sometimes used in drama classes.
- I need two volunteers.
- You’ll sit on this bench.
- Those of us who are not volunteers are going to come up with a place where you are, and then tell you who you are (for instance, you are two strangers sitting in a train. One of you is an old woman whose cat just died and the other one of you is a 40 yr old man who is late for an important business meeting)
- Then, you will act that out.
- There’s only one rule: After your fellow actor/actress says something, you **must** respond with “Yes, and…” and then finish the sentence.
- You may move, if you wish, but you don’t need to.

DO activity: Yes, and…

- Do two or three times with different volunteers, different settings and character roles.
- Then, do the activity one more time, only this time, instead of saying, “Yes, and…” each person must respond with, “No, I don’t think so” or “I don’t believe you will” or “You can’t do that!”

Note: It might be best start this activity with two adults and have the class yell out characters and locations.

ASK

- What do we think, was the “Yes and” more creative and entertaining or was the “No, I don’t think so” more creative and entertaining?

TELL

- In the last two classes, we’ve talked about two perspectives of why Jesus died.
 - He died for our sins (like the lamb that freed the Israelites from Egypt – this perspective explains why God would direct Jesus to allow himself to be arrested and crucified)

- He died because of our sins (as shown so vividly by the garden of Gethsemane and the Trail stories – this perspective explains why the Pharisees and crowd killed Jesus)
- A component of both these perspectives is that Jesus was obedient to God’s call. Jesus kept saying yes to what God was saying.
- And because Jesus said yes to God, then he also said yes to letting the Pharisees and crowd arrest and then crucify him.
- AND, also because Jesus said yes, then he also experienced resurrection.
- If Jesus had said no, then just like in our skit, the story would’ve ground to a halt.

TELL Resurrection Perspectives

- In this story, it seems pretty reasonable that the disciples would be doubtful about Jesus being resurrected, right?
- And for us, too, this is a hard story to get our minds around.
- So, some perspectives to consider when thinking about this story:
 - We’ve talked about that when we follow Jesus, pretty cool things can happen (healing, abundance, VIPs hang out with ya, etc), but that there can also be disruptions.
 - Those disruptions can be pretty unsettling. In the midst of those disruptions, it can feel like things will never be right again.
 - The Resurrection can be viewed as a reminder that these disruptions are not forever.
 - God’s Way brings life, even if it first brings disruption.
 - Even if things seem hopeless, dead, beyond repair, the Resurrection is a reminder that if we keep seeking God, then nothing is finished, there are no dead ends. If we live God’s Way of living, then we will experience the fullness of life in a way that cannot be forever quelled or smothered by others.
 - God will meet us where we are at regarding our beliefs about Resurrection. Look at all the ways the disciples and Mary are helped in believing that Resurrection actually happened.
 - But also notice, again, that it’s only the disciples, those who followed Jesus who get to see the Resurrection. The crowd and Pharisees (and Judas) are denied seeing the Resurrection. If we’re not seeking God, then we’re not going to see Resurrection (The actions of those who come to just Christmas and Easter worship services can seem especially ironic in this light, then).
 - Though the Resurrection is in some ways the end of Jesus’ ministry, it is also a springboard/transition for the disciples’ ministry – from disciple to apostle.
 - More about that in next week’s class.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

What doubts, like Thomas, do you have about God? About Jesus? About the stories we’ve read and studied?

CLOSING PRAYER – ask for prayer requests and give time during prayer for students to pray.