

# Jesus' Last Days

**Lesson 31a — Lazarus Raised From the Dead**

**Lesson 31b — Triumphal Entry**

**Lesson 31c — Lord's Supper and Foot Washing**

**Lesson 31d — Betrayal and Crucifixion**

## OVERVIEW

The events immediately preceding Jesus' death and resurrection are the subject of this unit of study. Even while Christ was engaged in teaching His disciples and ministering to the people of His day, He was ever moving toward Jerusalem to fulfill His destiny at the Cross. In those latter days, a number of stirring occurrences are recorded in Scripture.

We start this unit with the account of one of Jesus' last miracles, the raising of His friend Lazarus from the dead. Though Jesus was very close to the members of this family, four days elapsed between Lazarus' death and the moment when Jesus stood at the door of his tomb and called, "Lazarus, come forth." Emphasize to your students that this miracle was symbolic of the spiritual and eternal life Christ will give to those who ask of Him.

Because we are expanding the study of Jesus' last days, our second lesson deals with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, even though this is not Palm Sunday. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the people of the surrounding area were stirred. Some believed in Him as God's Son, though others wanted all the more to kill Him. Thus, when He entered the city of

Jerusalem, He was acclaimed by a multitude, and yet a short time later the people cried out to crucify Him.

During the third week we will be studying Christ's institution of the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Foot Washing. If you have students in your group who do not have an understanding of this practice, you will want to carefully explain what Jesus' example meant and that we are blessed when we follow His instructions.

Our final lesson in the unit relates the events surrounding Christ's betrayal and crucifixion. The anguish that Christ went through must be portrayed against the backdrop of His tremendous love for us. Your students should understand that Christ was bearing the penalty for our sins. This is a good opportunity to review God's plan of salvation with your students, while their young hearts are stirred with the magnitude of the sacrifice He made for us.

Study of these four lessons should be a springboard to our next unit, which focuses on the joy of Easter and the events between Christ's resurrection and His ascension into Heaven.

## SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS UNIT

Refer to Units 7 and 20 for additional ideas concerning the lessons in this unit. Although the specific lesson objectives may be different, the patterns provided and activities suggested will be applicable in many cases.

## GAMES FOR REVIEW

Put one picture of each lesson on a big board (or enlarge pictures from the pattern book). Group together on the left side, but not in the correct order. On the right side list the lesson titles. Ask someone to volunteer to place the title under the correct picture. If the volunteer is successful he gets a prize. Ask for hands of those

who think he is right or wrong. Choose a volunteer from those saying it is wrong. Continue until someone places the right title under each picture. A prize in this unit could be something pertaining to Easter.

Use the Memory Verse Review board to play a game with your students (see Patterns). Have them put their finger on any word around one of the four verse squares. They should then begin reciting the memory verse they have chosen. Each time they say a word, have them move their finger to the next square. Whenever their finger lands on a word that is the same as the word they are saying in the verse, they get one

point. After each student has had the same number of turns around the board, the student with the most points wins.

Use a pencil and a paper clip as a spinner for your Jesus' Last Days review game (see Patterns). Have your students place their pencil point through the end of a paper clip and on the dot in the center of the spin board. Let them spin the clip, and then tell one thing about the picture which their clip lands on. If you wish, give points for each correct statement. If the clip lands on the line between two pictures, he may give a statement, and earn a point, for each picture. The game becomes progressively more difficult, because each student must think of a new statement about the picture.

## CONTEST IDEAS

Divide the group into two teams and ask questions. If answered correctly place an egg in an Easter basket. The team with the most correct answers wins.

Purchase plastic Easter eggs that pull apart. Insert in each egg a question and a memory verse. Every Sunday let each student choose an egg. One point is given for each correctly answered question and two for each memory verse recited. On the fourth Sunday, points can be totaled and an appropriate prize given.

Copy and cut out a supply of "Jerusalem dollars" for use in this contest (see Patterns). Explain to your class that they can earn the dollars by performing specific behaviors: attending, bringing a friend, bringing their Bible, etc. Make each child a small drawstring pouch in which to keep his dollars, and hang these on the walls in your class. At the beginning of the contest, make sure your group knows what prizes are available that they can spend their dollars for, and how many dollars it will take to earn each prize. This contest can be carried on through the next unit, if desired.

## BULLETIN BOARDS

Make a Spring bulletin board (see Patterns). Place on the upper right-hand side a large sun cut from yellow construction paper or gold foil. Cut flowers from various colors of construction paper, and stems and leaves from green. Place these in a row along the bottom of the bulletin board. In large letters, print HAPPY EASTER above the flowers.

Cover your board with a bright color. Make large bubble letters spelling JESUS, to cover your whole board (see Patterns). Staple them to the background. Gather small pictures that have to do with this unit's lessons from Primary Pals, old Bible story books, etc. Include the unit memory verses printed on small squares of paper. Let the boys and girls staple or glue these pictures to

the large letters. You may want to devote a period of time each week to add pictures to the letters.

Make praising the Lord the theme of your bulletin board. Cover your board with bright paper. In large letters, put the words CELEBRATE! JESUS IS OUR KING! (see Patterns). Inflate a group of balloons and attach them in the two upper corners. Arrange four brightly colored shapes on the board. During the month, write the memory verse on the matching shape cut about 1" smaller, and post inside the larger shape on the appropriate Sunday. Musical notes, circles cut into spirals, streamers, and bright stickers can be spaced around the four shapes.

Cover your board with light yellow paper. Add a purchased border design such as spring flowers, if desired. On the left side, make a cross using eleven hearts cut from pale blue construction paper (see Patterns). If you wish, frame small pictures of each of your students and place them near the cross. In large letters on the other side of your board, arrange the words JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW.

## UNIT SONGS

"Jesus Loves Me"  
"Everybody Ought to Love Jesus"  
"My Burdens Went Rolling Away"  
"Praise Him, Praise Him"

## CHART IDEAS

Use the picture of an Easter basket (see Patterns). Cut the slit and fill with large brightly colored eggs. In the center of each egg mount a religious Easter sticker.

Make a simple chart showing three crosses on a hill for this month. Give each child a dark blue sheet of construction paper. Precut a low hill of green construction paper, and three brown crosses (one large and two small). On the first Sunday, help your students glue the hill and crosses on the blue background. Across the top write the words "JESUS LOVES \_\_\_\_\_ ." (Write in child's name.) On subsequent Sundays, let the children apply flower stickers around the base of the cross. On the final Sunday, place a sticker of Jesus in the center of the cross.

## SUPPORT MATERIAL

The Joy of Easter — a giant mural coloring book, Concordia Publishing House. It has different scenes of Jesus' last days on earth, and covers a large board when fitted together.

Life of Christ, Volume 4 — Biblegram, CEF Press  
Jesus' Death and Resurrection — Classroom Coloring Activities (4 each of 6 coloring and activity pages), Rainbow Books

Family Life Institute series of cassette tapes — Numbers 56 through 59