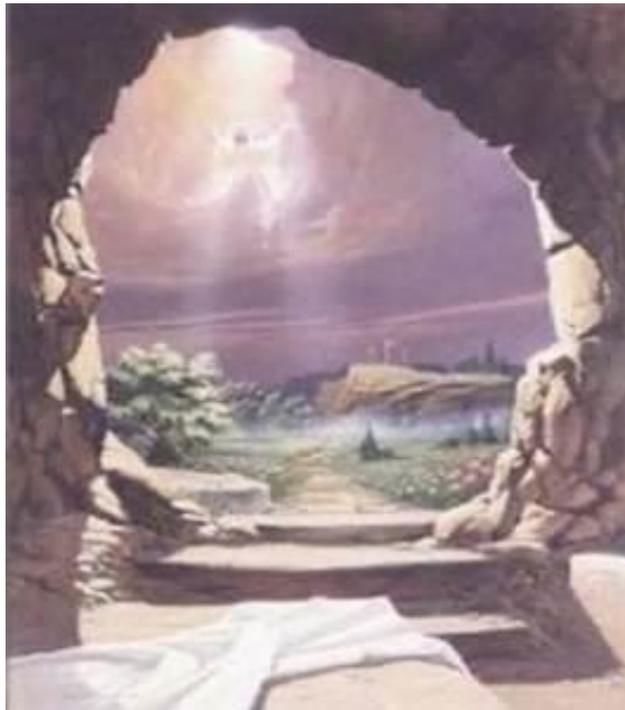


**Green County Church of Christ  
Vacation Bible School – 2015**

*Standing on the Promises*



**Lesson Three: Jesus' Promise that...**

**"I am with you always"**

**Matthew 28:20**

**Primary Series Aim:** Students will be encouraged to believe and obey the gospel that they might become partakers of the promises Jesus made, that through Him alone they may receive eternal life.

**Secondary Series Aim:** Students will know what Jesus said about subjects of eternal and spiritual importance regarding promises He made to us.

**Lesson Three Aim:** Students will believe, take comfort in, and receive strength to live by faith in Him through the promise He made to be with us always.

## **Lesson Plan:**

### **First Session (40 minutes):**

- Discussion
- Questions
- Activities

### **Second Session (40 minutes):**

- Review
- Testing
- Crafts

**Special Note to Teachers:** Please try hard to get the main points across and test to see if students understand the purpose of the study. This material is provided to serve you and not you, it. God bless you in efforts. (Separate question/activity sheets will be given to students)

## Memory Verse for Today

*"I am with you always" - Matthew 28:20*

### *SATAN WANTS YOU TO THINK:*

- You are all alone in this world and on your own. There is no God, Savior, or religion that is real; it is all just make-believe.
- Since Jesus was only an ordinary man, He died like every human does and therefore has no power to do anything to help us.
- Somehow Jesus' body was stolen by His disciples, or else He just swooned, came out of the tomb later, and lived a normal life with wife and children.
- Baptism does not have anything to do with salvation or faith in Christ. It is something to show we have already been saved after praying to Jesus.

### *GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW:*

- You are not alone in the world nor are you on your own. Jesus has triumphed over death by the power of His resurrection. He has promised to be with us forever.
- Jesus was resurrected and exalted by being proclaimed and crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords. God the Father has given Him power over all things in Heaven and on earth.
- Those who live by faith and in Jesus Christ are His spiritual family. He now reigns on High, at the right hand of God the Father, on behalf of His saints, the church of Christ.
- Jesus commanded baptism (water immersion) as that which proves one is a disciple of His. It puts an unsaved person into a relationship with Him through the obedience of faith in Him. Without it, one is not put "into" Christ and is therefore unsaved (infants and small children being the exception as they are not yet lost in sin).

*Who will you and I believe?*

## TODAY'S TEXT: MATTHEW 28:1-20

### Summary

Jesus had been crucified and had died. He had been placed in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea. It was sealed by a stone and by an order from Pilate who had also posted Roman guards to keep the body from being stolen. On the first day of the week (Sunday morning) two women went to the tomb. There was a violent earthquake due to the advent of an angel who rolled back the stone and sat upon it. The guards saw all this and were paralyzed by fear. The angel spoke to the women, telling them that Jesus was resurrected and showing them His burial clothing. He commanded them to go and inform the disciples which they did after Jesus met them on the way. When the guards reported what had happened to the chief priests, the priests paid them to lie and say that the disciples stole away the body of Jesus. The eleven disciples went to Galilee as Jesus had told them and there He gave them what is known as the Great Commission ending by promising to be with them always, even to the end of the world.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the first day of the week?  
Answer: The day after the Sabbath (Saturday), being Sunday.
2. What were the names of the two women who visited the tomb?  
Answer: They were both named Mary.
3. What happened before the angel descended?  
Answer: There was a tremendous earthquake.
4. What did the angel do? Answer: Rolled back the stone and sat upon it.
5. What did the angel look like?  
Answer: His appearance was like lightning and his robe white as snow.
6. What did the guards do at first?  
Answer: They were terrified and paralyzed by fear.
7. What did the angel tell the women about Jesus?  
Answer: He knew they were looking for Him but He was not there – He had been resurrected from the dead.
8. What did the angel show to the women?  
Answer: The empty tomb.

9. What did the angel tell the women to do?  
Answer: Go quickly and tell the disciples that He had risen from the dead.
10. Where did the angel tell them Jesus was going and where should they go?  
Answer: To Galilee (they were in Judea).
11. What emotions did the women feel when they departed?  
Answer: Fear and great joy.
12. Running to tell the disciples about Jesus, who met them?  
Answer: Jesus Himself greeted them and confirmed the angel's message.
13. What did some of the soldiers who were guarding the tomb do?  
Answer: They entered the city (Jerusalem) and reported to the chief priests.
14. What plan did the priests concoct with the soldiers?  
Answer: They told them to say that Jesus' disciples came and stole the body of Jesus.
15. What did the priests give the soldiers to lie?  
Answer: A large amount of money.
16. What did the priests promise to do to help the soldiers with their failure to guard the body of Jesus?  
Answer: They would speak on their defense to the governor to keep them safe.
17. Did the soldiers take the bribe money and lie?  
Answer: Yes they did and it was commonly reported for a long time.
18. How many disciples traveled to Galilee to meet Jesus there?  
Answer: Eleven. Judas Iscariot had hanged himself
19. When the disciples saw Jesus what did they do?  
Answer: They worshipped Him, but some doubted.
20. What did Jesus say that He now had?  
Answer: All authority (power to rule) in heaven and on earth.
21. What did He tell them to do since He had that authority?  
Answer: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to observe all that He had commanded them.
22. What promise did Jesus make to His disciples?  
Answer: To be with them always, even to the end of the age (world).

## **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES**

- FIND-A-WORD
- CROSSWORD PUZZLES
- COLORING PAGES

## **VITAL TOPICS FROM THE TEXT**

What is the significance of Christians assembling for worship on Sunday instead of some other day like Saturday?

- Sunday is the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead, not Saturday. It therefore became the “Lord’s Day” which the Christian community observed as the special time to worship God through singing, prayer, teaching, preaching, giving, and the Lord’s Supper.

Explain how it would have been impossible for Jesus’ disciples to have stolen His body from the tomb.

- The tomb was sealed with a huge stone and was guarded by a group of Roman soldiers under strict orders from Pilate, the governor to prevent anyone from taking the body at least until Sunday was over. Any disciples trying to get to the body would have had to kill the Roman soldiers first, but none were killed. Besides that, even the least Roman soldier could outfight even two or more disciples and there were only eleven. All of them were so scared they were hiding in a room when news came of Jesus’ resurrection.

What is contained in the Great Commission? What are we supposed to do as Christians to fulfill it?

- Jesus tells us to “go” and “make disciples of all the nations” which means as we are living in the world, we must be telling people the Good News that they can be saved through Him from death and eternal punishment. When people believe we are to have them baptized at which point they are saved and become His disciples. After that, they are to be taught to follow Christ by obeying His commands and teachings He gave through His Apostles.

How does Jesus’ promise to be with us always help us?

- Through His continuing presence with us it helps by giving us hope, comfort, and strength to keep ourselves out of sinful ways, always being ready to meet Him when He returns. We know He is with us, watching over us, answering our prayers and protecting us from Satan and his plans to destroy us.

### **TESTING CONCEPTS**

HAVE EACH STUDENT PREPARE AN ‘EXIT SLIP’ (A SLIP OF PAPER DESCRIBING ONE OR MORE THINGS THEY LEARNED FROM THE CLASS). WHEN THEY ALL ARE FINISHED, EACH ONE TAKES THEIR TURN READING IT TO THE CLASS AND MAKING REMARKS (IF DESIRED). YOU MAY COMMENT ON THEM ALSO.

ALTERNATELY, YOU MAY PREPARE A WRITTEN OR ORAL TEST OF YOUR OWN TO GIVE TO THEM. YOU MAY USE THE QUESTIONS ABOVE IF YOU WISH.