

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus' Resurrection (Mary)**Learning Goals:** Through independent study, students will identify the primary components of the Resurrection story as told by John.**Question:** Why is the resurrection of Jesus important?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Have students read John 20:1-18 and answer the following questions:

1. According to John, the resurrection happened on what day?
First day of the week (Sunday)
2. According to John, Mary was the only one to travel to the tomb.
3. Why did she travel to the tomb?
She came to anoint the body.
4. What did she find there?
The tomb was empty.
5. What did she do as a response?
She ran back to the disciples (Peter and John) to tell them.
6. What did she think had happened to Jesus' body?
She thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus.
7. John and Peter had a race to the tomb. Who was the first to the tomb?
John beat Peter (maybe because he was younger)
8. Who was the first to enter the tomb? How is this consistent with what we already know about this disciple?
Peter was the first in the tomb. He is impetuous and speaks/acts before thinking. He charges into the tomb without really thinking about what he is doing.
9. What is different (or missing) in John's account from what we are accustomed to reading in the Easter story?
Where are the other women that came with Mary? The angels don't appear until after the disciples have come and looked at the tomb.
10. Why is Mary crying?
The grief of losing Jesus is very real. She doesn't understand what is going on.
11. Why do you think the angels only appeared to Mary and not to Peter and John?
12. What do the angels say to Mary? What is her response?

"Why are you weeping?" She responded, "They have taken my Lord."

13. When Jesus first appears to Mary, who does she think that he is? Why do you think this is the case?

She thinks that he is the gardener. It is the most logical explanation. She has no way to conceptualize the resurrection - it will not fit into her box yet.

14. When does Mary recognize who Jesus is? Why do you think this is important?

When he speaks her name. Jesus knows each of us by name.

15. How is John 20:16 connected to John 10:3?

Jesus said that he knows the name of his flock and his flock know his voice. When he speaks Mary's name, she recognizes who he is. There is something in his voice that she knows.

16. When John refers to Mary in vs. 11, he uses the Greek version of her name (Maria). When Jesus speaks her name in vs. 16, he uses the Hebrew (Miriam). Can you think of another Miriam in scripture? How do these two compare with one another?

Moses' sister.

17. What does Mary call Jesus? Why is this significant?

Mary calls him Rabboni, which means teacher. She is essentially calling him her Rabbi and Lord. It is a term of great respect.

18. Compare this garden with the Garden of Eden in Genesis? How are they different?

In the Garden of Eden, death entered. In this garden, life entered.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were kicked out. In this garden, Mary was sent.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve hid from God. In this garden, Mary goes to Jesus.

19. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Do not cling to me?"

Jesus appeared to help bolster their faith, but this was not his permanent state. Jesus is encouraging Mary not to cling to this physical body, but to depend on the Spirit which would be with them forever.

20. What did Mary do as a result of seeing Jesus? What theme have we seen in John's gospel that is an extension of this?

She runs to tell the disciples what she has seen. This is an extension of the theme of witness in John's Gospel.

21. Why is the resurrection so important to Christians?

Everything in Christianity hinges on the resurrection.

Because of the resurrection, new life is possible.

Because of the resurrection, Jesus is proven trustworthy.

Because of the resurrection, Jesus has defeated the final enemy - death.

Because of the resurrection, Jesus demonstrates power and victory over Satan.

22. What do you think Christianity would be like without the resurrection?

Jesus would be nothing more than a good teacher. His death would have little more power than the lambs of the sacrificial system. Without the resurrection, we might have forgiveness, but not true life.

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Mary Magdalene
- Peter
- John
- Who is the first witness to Jesus' resurrection in John? What is significant about that? (7.8.7)