

**RISEN INDEED**



**Sample Packet  
for  
Risen Indeed**


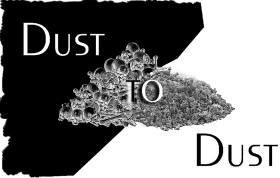


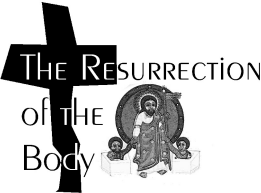


# Risen Indeed

by Pax Domini Press

## Introduction

Risen Indeed is a VBS program by Pax Domini Press on the resurrection. Here are the lesson images for each day as well as the text and theme:

Lesson	Image	Text	Theme
1		Genesis 1: 25 - 2: 7	God creates man and binds Himself to His creation in love.
2		Genesis 3: 1-19	Man rejects the spirit of life and so returns to the dust.
3		Ezekiel 37: 1-10	The Lord promises a day when He will return His breath of life into the bones.
4		Matthew 28: 1-10	Christ rises from the dead, the first of the resurrected.
5		John 11	Those baptized in Christ will join Him in His resurrection when He returns.

## **Why is this theme important?**

Risen Indeed teaches an extremely important theme, that the goal of our salvation is not just that we “escape” out of our bodies and have immortality, but that our bodies will rise from the dead, just as Jesus’ body did. Against an increasingly Gnostic culture which distinguishes between body and Self (or the Self’s “identity”), this program reaffirms the central Christian hope, that one day we will be reunited bodily with all who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

The culture is catechizing our children whether we like or not. This program – as all Pax Domini Press programs – aims to fortify Christian children in the face of an increasingly antagonistic culture.

## **How do Pax Domini Programs work?**

Pax Domini VBS programs come in electronic files, either on a CD or downloaded from our website at [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com). Included in the files are the following:

1. Four levels of workbook material, 20 pages each
  - Level 1, ages 4-5
  - Level 2, ages 6-7
  - Level 3, ages 8-9
  - Level 4, ages 10-12
2. Teachers’ editions for each level, with extra material and more guidance for Level 1 material
3. Activity sheets for Level 1 activities and extra materials for other levels if need be
4. Chapel bulletins for each day based on the order of matins
5. Puppet show script for each day
6. Recreation ideas that fit the theme of the program
7. Craft instructions

Pax Domini programs are “do-it-yourself.” Everything is included for a congregation with a color copy machine to self-publish the program itself. Rights are given the congregation to produce as many copies as required for the program.

Pax Domini crafts are designed to be durable and made of organic materials, as is fitting our eternal and holy Lord. Materials like wood, glass, ceramic, mosaic pieces, cloth, and plaster are used. Most materials can easily be found at a craft supply store.

Crafts, workbooks, and T-shirts are available at [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com) for congregations who may not have access to the required supply stores.

Our prices are as follows;

Program	\$150
Workbooks	\$5.99/workbook
Crafts	\$9-\$15/craft
T-Shirts	\$14.50-\$17.50/T-shirt

## **How do I order?**

Go to [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com) and browse our nine VBS programs, three Sunday School curricula, and other items.

Items can be ordered on a CD and shipped, or downloaded directly from the website.

There are several payment options, including credit card and paypal. Also, the buyer can select to be invoiced with no payment at time of purchase.

## **What is in this Sample Packet?**

In this sample packet are samples of the craft, one lesson per level (levels 1-4), a puppet show script, and a sample of a chapel service and the hymn of the week.

## Craft

### What is the craft?

The craft is a miniature baptismal font, in front of a cross with a butterfly representing the resurrection, and a banner saying "He is Risen." The meaning of the craft is that through baptism we are joined to Christ in His resurrection.



### How can a congregation make this craft?

This craft can be made by any congregation which has someone proficient with a table saw. The wooden cross is cut out, and the mold to make the font is cut out as well at precise angles. The rest of the craft can be made from materials purchased at any craft store.

The craft can also be ordered from [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com) for \$9.00. The font mold needs to be ordered separately from [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com) for \$8.00. Pending on how much time is available to pour molds, a congregation will want to purchase one mold per 10-20 children.





# Lesson One

## Memory

Genesis 1: 27 – So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

## Introduction

In Vacation Bible School this year we are going to learn the best thing ever! What is the best thing ever? It is that one day, Jesus will raise us from the dead and we will live forever.

Death is very sad. It is sad when someone we love dies. It is sad when we see people on TV die. But how happy it is to know death is not forever. This week we will learn how Jesus ended death forever!

## God Creates Us

Long ago, God created everything in our world. He created the sun, moon, and stars. He created the water and land. He created the birds of the air and the fishes of the sea. He made all the animals.



Jesus appears to His disciples after He rose from the dead



Finally, the last thing God created was man and woman. But God didn't make man and woman just like any of the other things He created. He created man and woman in a very special way. He created them in His own image.

***Let us say together: "In the image of God He created them."***

Yes, in His image God created man and woman. Man and woman are not animals! We didn't come from animals. We shouldn't be treated like animals. We shouldn't think we are animals.

***Let us say together: "We are not animals!  
We are made in God's image."***

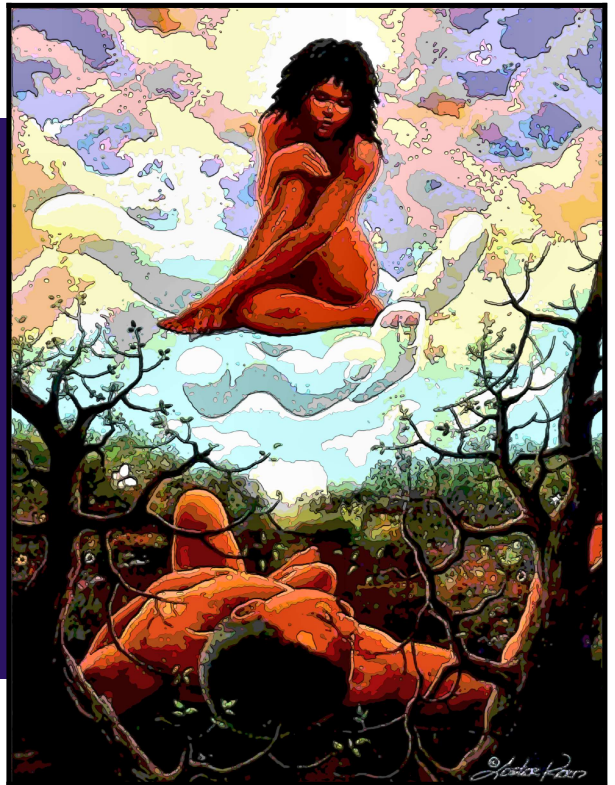


To create the man, God was going to use the dust of the earth and form it into a man. First, He moistened the dust with a watery mist. Next, He formed the watery dust into the shape of a man. Last, He breathed His breath of life into the man, and the man became a living being.

***Let us say together: "And the man became a living being."***

To create the woman, God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. Then He took one of the ribs from the man, and made the woman out of it. Then He took the woman to the man, and the man and woman got married! This was the very first marriage ever.

***Let us say together: “The man and woman became one flesh.”***



## **God Still Creates Us and Loves Us As Our Father**



The first man and woman were named Adam and Eve. They both were made in very special ways. But God still creates each child who is born. He carefully forms them in their mommy’s belly. Not everyone may have a father, but everyone has God as his Father.

***Let us say together: “God is my Father, who lives in heaven.”***

Not only is God our Father who created us,  
but He still takes care of us.



He causes the food to  
be grown so I have food  
to eat.  
(Color the picture.)

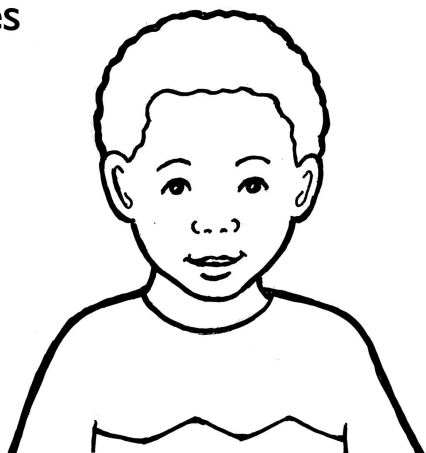


Eyes

Ears

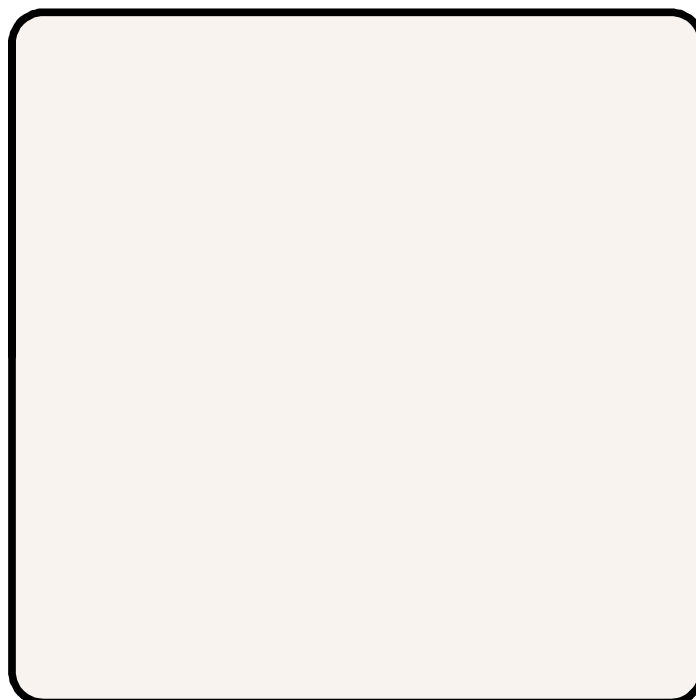
Nose

Mouth



He gave me my body  
and all my senses.  
(Match them up.)

How else does God care for us?  
(Draw a little picture to show a way  
that God takes care of us.)



# DUST

# TO

# Lesson Two

## Memory

Genesis 3: 19b – For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.

## DUST Introduction

We learned how God created us in His image. He made us from water and dust, and then He breathed His breath into us. God still cares for us and loves us.

God made the world very good, but it is not very good anymore. What happened to the world? Why do people die and bad things happen?

## The Fall of Man

### Read how man fell and the world became cursed:

God first made Adam. After God made Adam, He put him in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place! There was no death and no hunger there. No one was poor.

God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden, but there was one tree he should not eat from. This was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.


Soon God made a wife for Adam named Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, and one day the devil came to Eve in the form of a snake and tempted her to eat the fruit that God told them not to eat. She ate of it, and so did Adam. They disobeyed God! This is called sin.

Because of their sin, God first said to the devil, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

He also told the woman that when she



gave birth to a baby, she would have pain. And to Adam God said, “Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” This means that all people would return to the dust after they died.



**Discuss the following questions:**

Why was it wrong for Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Adam was created from the dust of the earth. Where would Adam and all his children go at the end of their days?

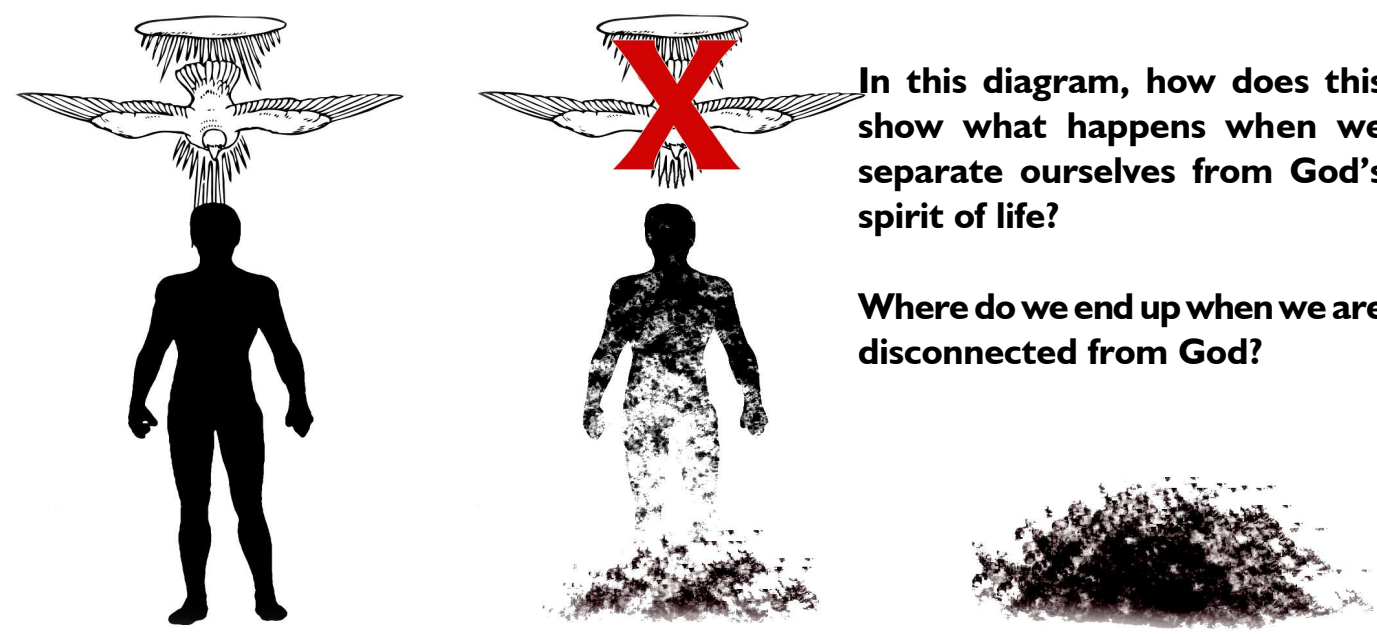
We learned that the ingredients of a person are water, dust, the image of God, and the breath of life. What happens when the breath of life is taken away from someone?

### The Curse of Death

What makes a vacuum cleaner work? Mom or dad has to plug it in. The vacuum cleaner gets electricity from the wall that makes it work. Imagine a vacuum cleaner saying, “I don’t need to be plugged in! I don’t need electricity! I can do this on my own!”

This is what Adam and Eve did. By listening to the devil rather than God, they said, “We don’t need God anymore! We can be gods on our own.”

But what happened once they said they didn’t need the breath of life anymore? Without God, they could not live anymore.

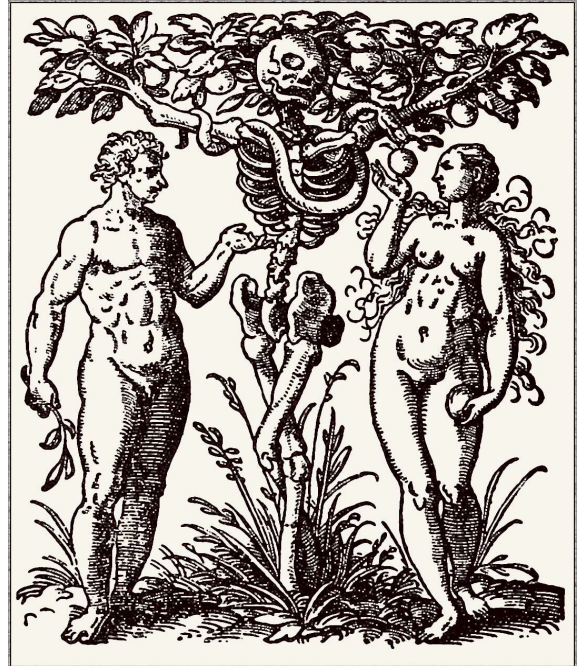


**In this diagram, how does this show what happens when we separate ourselves from God’s spirit of life?**

**Where do we end up when we are disconnected from God?**

That's why God said, "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return." All children of Adam and Eve will one day die.

As children of Adam and Eve, we all will die. Just as Adam and Eve rebelled against God, so do we continue to rebel against God. We rebel against God every time we disobey Him and sin.



In this picture, who are the people?

What is the tree that they are eating from?

What does the tree look like?

Why does the tree look like this?

<b>Do the following True and False.</b>		
True	False	It is normal when people do bad things and sin, because that is how God made us.
True	False	God told Eve that because she sinned, she would have to grow her hair long.
True	False	It's good to die, because then we escape all the bad things of this world.
True	False	God said to Adam, "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."
True	False	God told the snake that one day Eve would crush his head under her heel.

### **The Promise of a Savior**



God told the devil that one of Eve's children would crush his head. God was talking about Jesus. God promised that one day, Jesus would come and end the problem of sin and death.

Jesus solved the problem of sin by dying on the cross. He solved the problem of death by rising from the dead.

Those who believe and are baptized in His name defeat the devil! Their sins are forgiven, and one day they will rise from the dead!

## Activity: Put the Pictures in Order



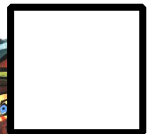
God promises that Jesus would crush the head of Satan



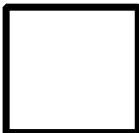
Adam, Eve, and the Snake receive the curses



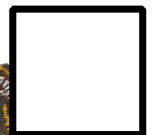
God creates the world in six days



Jesus fulfills the promise and dies for our sins



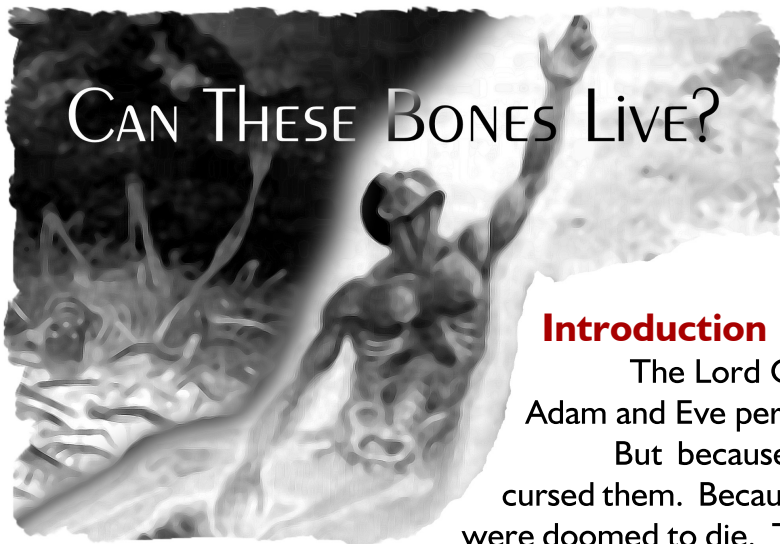
God creates Adam and Eve



Adam and Eve tempted by the snake

# Lesson Three

## CAN THESE BONES LIVE?



### Memory

Luke 20: 38 – For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him.

### Introduction

The Lord God made the earth beautiful, and He made Adam and Eve perfect. He wanted them to live forever.

But because Adam and Eve sinned against God, God cursed them. Because they rejected the source of their life, they were doomed to die. They would return to the dust. As God said, “Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

The same is true with us. Because we sin against God, we reject the source of our life. For that reason, all people die. Many, many people have died since Adam and Eve. What a pile of bones all these dying people would make!

Does God not care about all these dying people whom He created and loves? Will He leave us in the curse of death? Can all these bones live? Today we will answer this question.

### The Valley of Dry Bones

**Read the prophecy of how God will raise the dead one day:**

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.

And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.”

Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.”’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the



skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

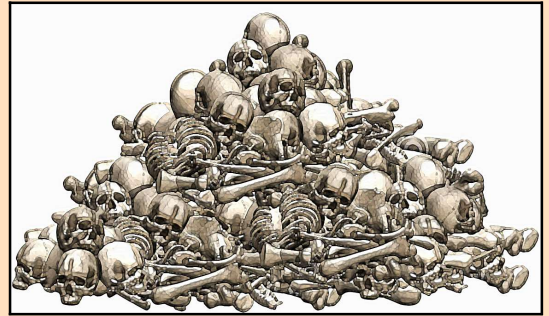
Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'""

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

### Discuss the following questions:

The bones were very dry. What word have we used a lot which describes what dry bones are kind of like? What would the bones become if you sanded them?

Once the bones came together, and the skin and sinews went back on the bones, what ingredient was still missing?



## The Resurrection from the Dead

How is it that bones can come together and live again? That may seem impossible, but the Bible says, "With God, nothing is impossible."

### Consider some of the things in the Bible that seemed impossible, but God made possible:

- (1) Jesus was born of a virgin.
- (2) Moses parted the Red Sea and Israel crossed over it.
- (3) Jesus walked on water.
- (4) Jesus healed the blind.



### What are some other miracles in the Bible (hint: look at the picture here to get one miracle.)

If God can make a man from a pile of dust, He can also take a pile of bones and bring them back to life. Jesus will do exactly this when He returns one day.

What will resurrected bodies be like? Will they be like zombies? Will they be like dead corpses roaming around looking scary?

No! They will be the very same bodies we have now. In fact, they will be way better than the bodies we have right now. They will have no defects. They will have no sickness. If someone wears glasses now, he will not need glasses with his resurrected body. If someone has a disease now, he will be cured from his disease in his resurrected body.

## Two Views of the Resurrection

Discuss these two views of the resurrection and why a bodily resurrection is better:

### View # 1: The Freedom of the Spirit



Some say we are spirits trapped in our bodies. The body is like a wet blanket we have to carry around until we die. Death is good because then we are freed from our bodies. When we die, our spirits will drift off into some other place and join other spirits as one.



### View # 2: The Body Rises from the Dead

The Bible says our bodies are good because God created them. Our bodies allow us to be with other people like our families and friends. Death is bad because our bodies stop living. Resurrection of our bodies is great, because when our bodies rise again, we will be with others who are also in their own bodies.

Why is the second view a better view?

## Activity: What about the curse?

If Adam had a curse because he sinned against God, how does the curse end? In each question below, pick the multiple choice answer that is correct, and then color in the letter in the grid below, to see what emerges.

Is there anyone who has never sinned against God?

- A. No. Everyone has sinned against God and therefore dies.
- B. There is no such thing as sin. There are just bad choices.
- C. Yes. There are some saints who never sin.
- D. Yes. But there is only one Person ever who never sinned.

Y	S	E	R	T	Y	J	K	O	P	M	N	B	V	C	Z	Q	S	G	J	E
J	J	R	D	Y	D	D	D	P	M	D	D	P	D	N	D	V	C	D	D	S
C	T	N	D	V	D	Z	Q	S	D	R	T	Y	D	K	D	P	D	N	J	V
K	V	T	D	J	D	D	P	M	M	D	E	P	D	N	D	V	Y	D	C	Y
V	D	M	D	B	D	C	Z	Q	Y	G	D	Y	D	O	D	O	J	O	D	J
C	K	D	B	V	D	D	D	S	D	D	E	J	M	D	O	Q	D	D	V	C
K	V	T	Y	J	K	O	P	M	C	Q	S	C	Y	P	Q	P	K	P	C	K



**How did God end our curse?**

- A. He sent someone to suffer our curse for us.
- B. He showed us how to live right and get to heaven.
- C. He taught us how we can beat the curse of death.
- D. He changed His mind about the curse.

Y S E R T Y J K O P M N B V C Z Q S G J D J K O P M N B V  
 J A A D Y A D A A A B A A D E R T A A A T G A D P A A D P  
 C A N A V A Z A S D R A Y A K D P A Q S H A Y A S A R A Y  
 K A T A J A D A A M D A P A N D V A A E J A T A J A A E P  
 V A M A B A C A Q Y G A Y A O D E A T Y M A K A Q A G A Q  
 C A A B V A D A A A D A A M D O Q A D V N Y A D S A D A J  
 K V T Y J K O P M C Q S C Y P Q P K P S K D R T M C Q S C

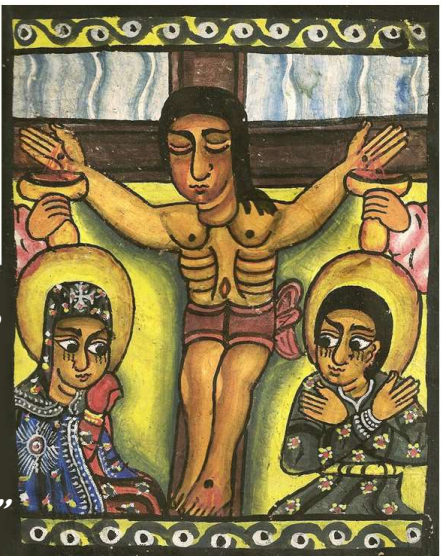
**If I am \_\_\_\_\_, I am no longer under the curse.**

- A. a really good person
- B. forgiven of all my sins
- C. the best that I can be
- D. smart and get good grades

Q R T Y U I O P L K J H G F S A C V N M K L O P X D R T  
 Y B I K P B F B R B J U K F B B X B N B M N B Q W B B H  
 H B B S B B G B R B V N J B Z X D B S B E D B I B K L Y  
 R B T B W B F H B A D F G H B R J B G B B M B N Z B R M  
 W B H Y R B E R B V N M Z R T B O B I B Y B B R U P B W  
 V B N M K B S D B E R Q Y B B M S B R B V A B K B B H W  
 S J I T N C R A Q M L P I S G Y I C D H K E F V H M J I

**Write out the words:**

*Jesus died on the cross for our sins and gave His lifeblood out for us. This picture shows how Jesus gives out His lifeblood in Holy Communion. In Communion, Jesus takes a cup and says, "This is My blood of the New Testament, shed for the forgiveness of sins."*



# Lesson Five

## THE RESURRECTION of THE Body



### Memory

John 11: 25 – Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

### Introduction

We have learned how God created us in bodies, and we learned how Adam and Eve sinned and brought death into our world. We learned that God will raise our bones to life one day, even long after we die. And finally we learned how Jesus was the firstfruits of the resurrection: He was the first person to rise from the dead and live forever.

But what about us? Will we also rise from the dead? Yes! That’s why Jesus is called the *first-fruits*. He was the first, but we will be the second-, third-, fourth-fruits, and so on. We can only rise again from the dead because He first destroyed the power of death.

Today we will learn about our own resurrection.

### Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Read how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead:

Before Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, He had some friends named Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. He loved them very much. One day Mary and Martha told him that Lazarus was sick and about to die. Jesus waited for two days and then told His disciples, “Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going to go and wake him up.”

The disciples thought it was strange that Jesus was going to go and wake up Lazarus. They said, “If he’s just sleeping, he’ll eventually wake up. You don’t have to go to wake him up.”

But Jesus meant something else. Jesus meant that Lazarus was dead. So He said to His disciples, “Lazarus is dead, and I’m glad I was not there to heal him, so that you may believe. Let’s go to him.”

So Jesus and the disciples came to the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.



Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that

You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” . . .

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

### Discuss the following questions:

Who exactly raised Lazarus from the dead? What was Jesus’ role in raising Lazarus from the dead?

Will God listen to Jesus’ prayer when He prays for us to rise from the dead? Why?

Will Jesus pray for us to rise from the dead one day? Why? How did Jesus feel toward Lazarus that He also feels toward us?



## The Resurrection of the Body

Jesus promised that one day He will return and raise us all from the dead. This is called His “Second Coming.” His first coming was as a baby, when He came to die for us and rise again. The Second Coming is when He returns in great power at the last day.

How will we know when Jesus is returning? Here are some signs of Jesus’ Second Coming:

- (1) He will come on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory.
- (2) He will be coming with angels.
- (3) He will be coming from the east like lightning.
- (4) There will be a sound of a trumpet.

Until His Second Coming, we wait for Him. Because we know He is coming again to raise us and give us eternal life, we always have joy in our hearts.

Imagine waiting the last few months of school to go on a trip to see grandma and your cousins in a distant state. You might have some bad days, or get bad grades, but because you know you’re going to have a lot of fun, you can get through the bad days. The same is true with Jesus. Because we know He is returning to take us to be with Him forever, we can have a joy in our hearts even though bad things happen in this world.



## Waiting for Jesus

How do I know I will rise up with Jesus? Will everyone rise up and live forever with Jesus?

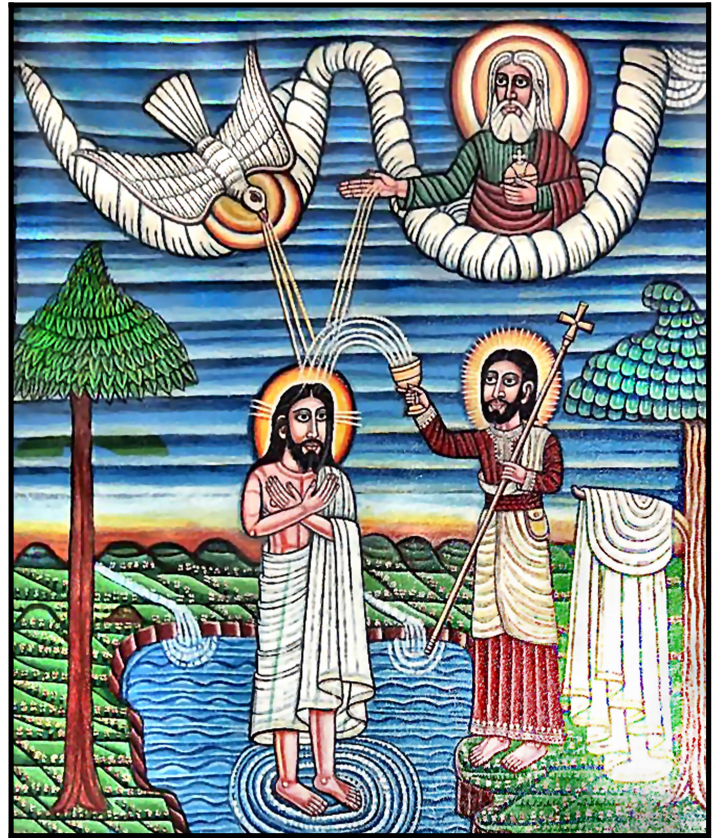
Jesus says, "if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." He also says, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Jesus will save those who believe in Him, keep His word, and are baptized. In fact, the Bible teaches that when we are baptized, we die with Jesus and also rise up with Him. Baptism connects us to the resurrection of Jesus.

Imagine if you were on the top of a building that was on fire. Now, imagine a rescue worker coming to save you in a helicopter. The rescue worker gets lowered from the helicopter to the top of the burning building on a rope, and then he ties you to himself tightly. Then, the helicopter lifts you both back up, until you're both back to safety. Baptism is the rope that ties us to Jesus, so that we join Him as He rises out of the grave into heaven.

We also believe in Jesus. We believe that He is the Son of God, who became flesh and came into our world, who died for our sins and rose again, and who now sits at the right hand of the Father.

This is how we wait for Jesus! We get baptized, believe in Him, and worship Him as Lord and God.



Jesus is baptized. Can you find the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in this picture?

## The Mystery of the Resurrection

**Here is a mystery! You will be given several clues to help figure out this mystery. See if you can figure out the mystery:**

Clue # 1: Where do we get baptized, show our faith in Jesus, and worship Him as Lord and God?

Clue # 2: What day did Jesus rise from the dead?

Clue # 3: What direction did we learn Jesus would return from?



Now think of a church in your neighborhood, especially an older one which has been there for a long, long time. What direction does it face? Why might it face this way?

And now think of a cemetery in your neighborhood. Which direction does it face? Why might it face this way?

## Activity: The Apostles' Creed

Here is the creed that Christians say when they are baptized, to show their faith in God. It is called the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed teaches about the Father who created us, the Son Jesus who saved us, and the Holy Spirit, who helps us while we wait for Jesus' return.

Confess the Apostles' Creed together, and then decide whether the statements after refer to the (F)ather, the (S)on, the (H)oly Spirit, or (A)ll three of them:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ He gives us the forgiveness of sins.

\_\_\_\_\_ He gives us blessings out of His love for us.

\_\_\_\_\_ He is Lord and God.

\_\_\_\_\_ He will return to judge the living and the dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ He ascended into heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_ He creates the holy Christian Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ He makes heaven and earth.

\_\_\_\_\_ We must believe in this one to be saved.

\_\_\_\_\_ He gives us life everlasting.

\_\_\_\_\_ He was born of the virgin Mary.



# Puppet Show Script

for

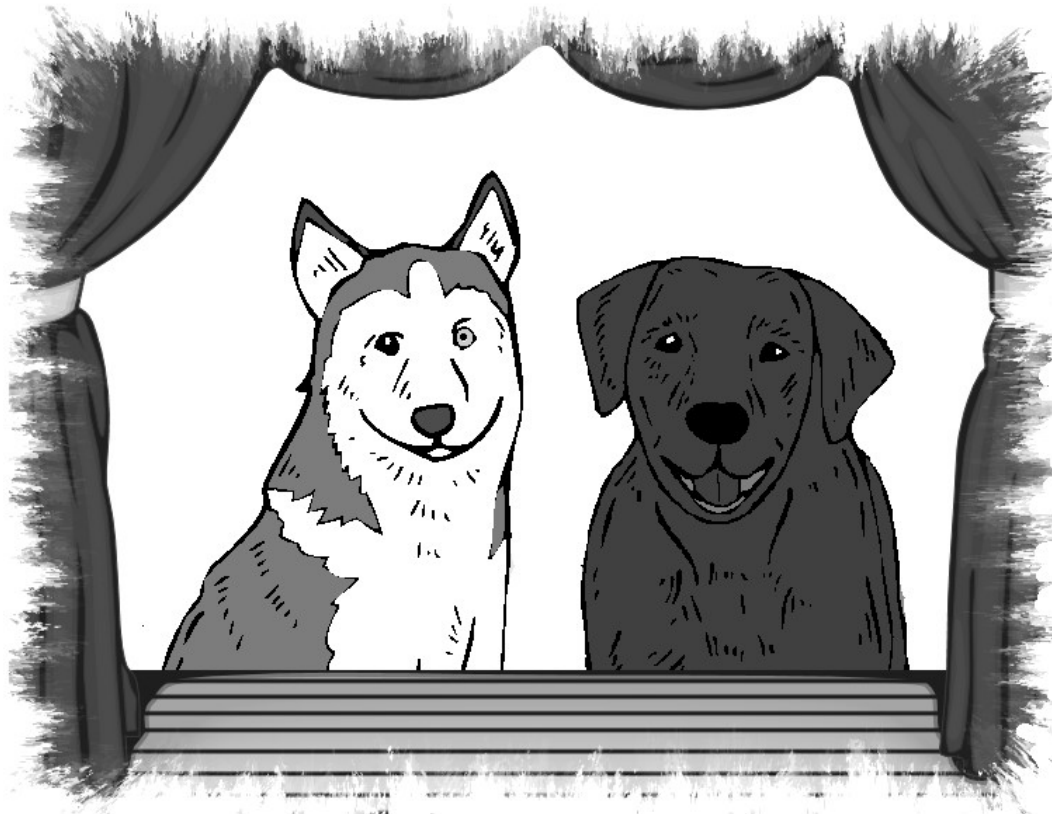
## “Risen Indeed!”

Starring

Jessie, the level-headed black Lab

&

Nickolai, the mischievous Husky



# Lesson One In the Image of God

## SAMPLE SCRIPT

Set up: Nickolai is up on stage doing some strange eastern meditation exercise, believing he's having an out of body experience.

Nickolai: Ommmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmmmm.

[Jessie pops up on the stage.]

Jessie: Hey, Nickolai! Whatcha doing?

Nickolai [ignoring Jessie]: Ommmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmm.

Jessie [speaking more loudly]: Nickolai! What in heaven's name are you doing?! Wake up, you nuttball!

Nickolai: [speaking softly and peacefully, as if in a trance-like state]: Hello, random dog. The God in me greets the God in you.

Jessie: What?! Why are you calling me "random dog." I'm not just some random dog. You know who I am! You know my name! I'm Jessie, you're best friend for 8 long dog years. That's like fifty years in people time! What's wrong with you?

Nickolai: Please, O random one. Names mean nothing. We are all one, and the God in me is the same as the God in you. Why would names matter if you and I are the same?

Jessie: Nickolai...

Nickolai: [Cutting Jessie off]: Who is Nickolai? Who is Jessie? Who is Isaiah? Or who is Kayla? [Names of students in the program can be put here.] We are all one. We are all in harmony.

Jessie: C'mon, you furry freak. What's gotten into you?

Nickolai: God has gotten into me, and right now I'm getting in touch with my inner chakra.

Jessie: Inner chakra??!!

Nickolai: Yes, O doubting one. I'm trying to free myself from my body and surf the cosmic waves of energy.

Jessie: You're trying to free yourself from your body??!! That's impossible, Nikolai. You ARE your body. How can you not be in your body?

Nikolai: Ahhhh, I'm doing it right now. Right now I'm over there in the back corner....now I'm over there by the students...now I'm right behind you, Jessie. Surfing the cosmic waves of energy gives me an enlightened perspective. Soon I shall ascend through the cosmic portal and leave you forever. My body will remain here as the shell that it is....ommmmmmmmmmm... ommmmmmmmmmmmmm

Jessie [shaking Nikolai out of his trance]: Allow me to slam that cosmic portal shut and bring you back to reality! Wake up, Nikolai, you furry freak!

Nikolai: You cannot wake me up, Jessie. I am not here in my body. I am not my body. My body here is just a shell of who I really am.

Jessie: Oh, really! So, if I do this... [Jessie goes over and bites Nikolai really hard.]

Nikolai: Ow!! Jessie, why did you do that? That really hurt! I think you left bite marks.

Jessie [mocking]: Ommmm. Who is Jessie. We are the same. Ommmm. The God in me bit the God in you. Ommmmmm.

Nikolai: Jessie! That's not how it works! That's not how God works.

Jessie: Oh really! Now you're a theologian! Well, O smarty pants. Tell me how God really works!

Nikolai: Well, um, I thought He was all part of us, and our bodies were just like random clothes we each wear, but really we're all one. But now I'm not sure about that.

Jessie: That's not what the Bible teaches, Nikolai. The Bible teaches that God made all of us in our bodies. He made all the animals with their own special bodies, and each one is different. Each one is special. That's why you can have your own name, and I can have my own name here.

Nikolai: Did he make all these boys and girls the same way?

Jessie: Well, yes and no. He made all these boys and girls in their own bodies too. He made them all unique and special. He made them all so that they can have their own names forever and ever. But He made them different than He made us.

Nikolai: How so?

Jessie: He made us in the blink of an eye. He said, "Let there be animals," and all the animals came into being! But He made people different. He came down from heaven, formed the dust of the ground with water to make the shape of a person. Then He



breathed His spirit of life into them.

Nickolai: Wow! That is special. Why did He make people special? Why are they not just like the animals?

Jessie: This is what the boys and girls are going to memorize today. God made them in His image. God made males and females in His own image.

Nickolai: So, people are NOT one with God, but are made in His image.

Jessie: That's right! Aren't you glad that's the way it is? Aren't you glad to be a special unique dog that God Himself made? And boys and girls, how blessed you humans are to be made in God's image! I hope you have fun this week learning a lot of really cool things. God be with you this week, and we'll see you tomorrow!

Questions for class time:

What do you think of Nickolai's idea that we are all one with each other and one with God? What do you think of his greeting, "The God in me greets the God in you"?

Jessie said that the Bible says we're made in the image of God and that this makes us different from the animals. What are some ways we are different from the animals?

Some people teach like what Nickolai thought. They think our bodies are like prison cells for our spirits, and that we are all one with God. Why do you think it's so good to have bodies and be your own person? Why is it good that there is no other person in all of the world in all of history that's like you?

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# Monday Prayer

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Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Children: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

**Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

## from Psalm 8

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

**Children: Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.**

Pastor: When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

**Children: What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?**

Pastor: For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

**Children: You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

Scripture Reading

The Apostles' Creed

Message

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

## In His Image God Made me

Tune: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"  
(for other tunes, see back of hymnal: 7777)

### Verse 1 (With Day One)

In His image God made me.  
From the dust I came to be.  
Formed by His almighty hand,  
By His Spirit I began.

### Verse 2 (With Day Two)

But our father Adam ate  
Of the tree with Eve his mate  
God's good Spirit they did spurn  
Now to dust we must return.

### Verse 3 (With Day Three)

Still, God loves what He has  
made –  
All those bones in the valley laid!  
By His breath they yet shall live.  
Life again one day He'll give.

### Verse 4 (With Day Four)

God sent Jesus Christ His Son,  
Vict'ry over death He won.  
Died our death upon the tree.  
Rose again to set us free.

### Verse 5 (With Day Five)

Now I never shall see death.  
Christ will give me second breath.  
He will raise me from the grave.  
All His children He will save.