

THE RESURRECTION BODY

Objects to have: Pictures of: children crying, children with sore knees, etc.; beautiful houses, happy healthy people; children playing and laughing; outdoor scenery including lovely trees and sparkling rivers. Your Bible.

Introduction to the lesson: (Show appropriate pictures while giving the following introduction.) Do you ever fall down and hurt yourself? Then you have sore on your knee or your elbow, and sometimes it takes a long time to heal. Do you ever get sick and have to stay in bed? You have to stay in the house until you are well. Do you ever get tired? Then you need to take time out and sleep. Our bodies are not perfect bodies. They get hurt, sick and tired. They get old, too. Bodies die.

The Lesson: Jesus was on earth. The disciples were eating with Jesus. Then Jesus said, "I must go away. I cannot stay with you. You cannot come with Me now, either. Someday you can be with Me and wherever I am, there you will be also." Peter said, "Oh, no Lord, please do not go away. I will follow You wherever You go. I won't let You go. I won't let You out of my sight."

Jesus said, "Don't be worried. Don't be sad. Believe in Me. Trust Me. Whatever I promise you, will come to pass. I have to go away now to do some work. Work? What kind of work would Jesus be doing where He was going? Jesus said, "I am going to get a place ready for you to live in. I am going to build a mansion for you. I'm going to build a city for that mansion." What is a mansion? It is a great big beautiful house.

Well, so Jesus was going away. He was going away to get places ready for His disciples to live in. But why couldn't they go with Him? They wondered about this. They were sad about thinking that they would have to be away from Jesus for a while. After supper some rough men took Jesus away. They crucified Him. He died. His body was placed in a grave - a tomb. He did not stay dead. He arose from the dead. Then His disciples were with Him again. They were talking with Him on the top of a mountain. While they were talking and looking at Jesus, suddenly He started to go up off the ground. He went up, up, up into the air. He went as high as the clouds - just straight up. He was not in an airplane nor a rocket ship. He went up into a cloud and they couldn't see Him any longer. Two men who were standing by them said, "Why do you stand here looking up into the sky? You've seen Jesus go up into the clouds; someday He will come again just as you have seen Him go." What a wonderful promise. These two men were actually angels. They were telling God's Word. That was many years ago. Jesus has not come back yet, but, we are still looking for Jesus to come back and it will be soon.

This part of our story is not from the Bible. This is a story about a little girl named Teresa. Teresa was born. She was a baby made by God just as everybody is made by God. Her mother and daddy saw her body. They could not see the real Teresa; the real Teresa lived in her body - house. Teresa grew and grew. She learned to walk and talk. She went to Sunday School. She heard about Jesus and asked Jesus to be her Saviour. Teresa was in the first grade at school. One day as she was leaving school, she stopped on the corner. The crossing guard told her it was all right to cross the street, but, as she started across the street, a truck driver did not stop when he was supposed to.

His truck hit Teresa. Her Mommy and the policeman hurried Teresa to the hospital. She was hurt very badly. Pretty soon her body became very still and her heart stopped beating. Teresa's body had died. The real Teresa did not die, however. I know where the real Teresa is right now. When her body died, no one could see this, but this is what happened: Jesus went to get the real Teresa and took her to Heaven to be with Him. Teresa is in Heaven though her body is in a grave. Since Jesus went back to Heaven, a lot of people have been born and have died. Their bodies are in graves; some are in the ocean. Many of these people had asked Jesus to be their Saviour; they were saved. Many of these people had not asked Jesus to be their Saviour; they were not saved.

Those who were saved went to be with Jesus. Those who were not saved went to Hell, a bad place.

Some day Jesus is going to come again in the clouds. What if He should come before we die? What if He should come today? I know what will happen if He comes in the clouds today. I read about it in the Bible. The people who have already died will come back with Jesus. He will come with a shout. The angel Gabriel will blow his trumpet. At that very instant all the bodies which belonged to the people who are with Jesus will come out of the grave. All the bodies will be made brand new by Jesus at that very instant.

Everybody will get his body - house back again. The people who do not love Jesus won't get their body - houses back again. Here we are; we are alive. When will we have our turn to go up to be with Jesus? We'll get it right after those who had died get their bodies back. We will get our new bodies too. Do you ever get sick? I do sometimes. When we get our new bodies, we won't get sick anymore. Do you ever get dirty? When we go to be with Jesus, we will be in a bright shiny clean place.

(Teachers, you may make use of your pictures while trying to describe Heaven.) The streets of the city will be made of gold - pure, clear gold. There will be a high wall all the way around the city. The bottom part of that wall will have pretty stones in it all around - pretty jewels of all different colors. There will be twelve gates in the wall. Each gate will be a huge pearl, each pearl showing a rainbow of colors. Through the city there will be a beautiful, clean sparkling river. There will be a great big tree, the Tree of Life. There will always be fruit on that tree. We will enjoy eating the fruit from that tree. It will be a different kind of tree. Now we have apple trees that have only apples on them, or we have pear trees from which we can get only pears. From the Tree of Life we will be able to get many different kinds of fruit.

Jesus is getting the houses ready for His people to live in, they will be the prettiest houses anybody can imagine. We cannot imagine how pretty they will be. They will be pretty and clean on the outside and pretty and clean on the inside. Just imagine the prettiest place that you can imagine. That's what Heaven will be like with Jesus. Everybody will be happy and healthy. Everybody will laugh and have a good time. They will also do some work for Jesus, but it will not seem like work at all. It will seem like play to do what Jesus wants us to do.

How do we get to Heaven? We get to Heaven by trusting Jesus as our Saviour. What happens to us if we do not trust Jesus? We go to Hell. I know that I am going to Heaven. I have trusted Jesus as my Saviour. I will be so happy to see Jesus. I will be so glad to be where He will be.

Are you going to be with Jesus forever? You will be if you have trusted Him as your Saviour. Then you'll have a brand new body, too. People will look at you and know you in your brand new body. Philippians 3:21a tells us that our new bodies will be fashioned or made like His glorious body.