

## LESSON 8: Resurrection

### AIM

To re-enact the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus. (5.1.15)

### OUTCOME

Learners identify with the joy experienced by Jesus' friends at his resurrection.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### 1 **Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene** [Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18]

**Narrator 1:** It was the Sunday morning, after Jesus had died and had been laid in the tomb. The women set out for the tomb very early in the morning.

**Women:** (As they approach the tomb) We will have to wait till the gardener comes by. He will roll the stone away for us.

**Narrator 2:** In the dim light they made out to the tomb. BUT IT WAS OPEN! The great stone had been rolled back already!

**Mary:** (as she goes to see the body) They have taken the Lord away!! Someone has taken his body!

**Narrator 1:** Frightened, they ran back to the disciples. They gasped...

**Women:** They have taken the Lord's body away!!

**Narrator 2:** Peter and John sprang to their feet, while the others questioned the women. They were puzzled and fearful. Peter and John dashed through the streets towards the garden. John ran faster than Peter. Yes! it was true! The stone had been rolled back. John waited by the door while Peter went in, he bent down and looked into the tomb. He could see the linen cloths that had covered Jesus' body lying there, but the body was not there! John followed Peter in.

**Narrator 1:** They did not understand what had really happened. They went back to tell the others.

**Narrator 2:** Mary Magdalene had come back to the garden. She had been crying. There, at a certain distance a man was standing.

**Man:** Why are you weeping? Are you looking for someone?

**Mary:** (crying) They have taken his body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have laid it.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Cast: three women (1) Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome; two apostles - Peter and John; the Man in the garden; two narrators (If you want to involve more learners, you could have as many as seven narrators as indicated by the bracketed numbers of the narrator parts.)
- \* Props: Sheets and towels for the women and disciples. One white sheet for Jesus. (1)
- \* Scripts (1)
- \* 🎵 *Shine, Jesus, Shine* or *Sing for Life – This Is the Day* (p.85) (3)
- \* 📖 Crossword puzzle worksheets (4) ➡

**Narrator 1:** She dried her eyes and looked up. The sun had risen now. It dazzled her eyes, tired and full of tears. She thought the man was the gardener. She couldn't see him properly for the light hurt her eyes.

**Mary:** Sir, if you took his body, tell me please. Tell me where it is!

**Man:** MARY!

**Mary:** Master!!!

**Narrator 2:** Mary's heart was beating fast. Tears flowed down her cheeks, but now she was smiling. She fell on her knees and tried to embrace his feet.

**Mary:** Master! It is you! I thought you were dead for ever. But now you are alive again, with a new life.

**Narrator 1:** Joyfully she ran back to share the Good News with the others.

**2 Prayer**

Dear Jesus, we thank you for New Life. We thank you that you now live within our hearts. Guide us each day. Let your light shine through us as we try to be like you with all those around us. Amen.

**3 Sing: *Shine, Jesus, Shine* or *Sing for Life – This Is the Day* (p.85)**

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 4** To consolidate the learning in this assembly, give the children a copy each of the **crossword** puzzle on the worksheet as homework. 📖 ➡
- 5** The children use the **6 puzzle words** from (4) in a paragraph entitled, *The Man in the Garden*.

# The Man in the Garden

Can you complete the crossword puzzle?

			1					
	2							
	3				4		5	
6								

## DOWN

- 1 What Mary thought had happened to Jesus' body  
 2 The first disciple to see Jesus after his resurrection  
 4 Where Jesus was buried

- 5 The day on which Jesus rose from the dead

## ACROSS

- 3 Those to whom Mary took the news of Jesus' resurrection  
 6 Who Mary thought Jesus was when she first saw him after the resurrection

## LESSON 9: New Life in Jesus

### AIM

To lead the learners to understand the significance of Jesus' life and to discover the difference that his life, death and resurrection made in people's lives (2.2.11, 7.2, 7.5, 8.4.8)

### OUTCOME

Learner are familiar with the life and teaching of Jesus, and the implications of these for the lives of his followers.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Copies of the worksheet (1) ⇒
- \* Bible (3)(5)
- \* *Sing for Life - Ga Gona Ya Tshwanang* (p.205) (6)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Famous People:** Ask the children what they know about Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Mahatma Gandhi, Fr. Joseph Gerard, and Bishop Mandla Zwane. Write these names on the board and note the things that the learners say. Let them choose one of these names and read the information provided on the worksheet about that person.
- 2 **What made them famous?** Help the learners see that famous people are known by what they did in their life-time to change the quality of life for others. The four people we have seen became famous because of their extraordinary actions. They were people who worked for justice and peace, whose main concern was the poor and discriminated in the world. It was the love they had for their fellow human beings and God that drove them to make a difference in the lives of others.
- 3 **Jesus of Nazareth:** Explain that of all the famous people ever known in history, the best-known is Jesus. There is no end of telling the stories of love and compassion that filled the lives of those who came in contact with him. Jesus' life, death and resurrection changed the meaning of everyone's life. It made everyone see how the Father is present and active in our lives too. Jesus stood in the synagogue of Nazareth and proclaimed the following words from the prophet Isaiah [Luke 4:18-19]:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*

Explain how this Scripture passage shows the significance of Jesus' life to us.

- He was chosen by God.
  - He brought us the Good News that the Kingdom of God is here with us. God is with us changing the world into a place of love and peace.
  - He made that Kingdom present by what he did, and in so doing changed people's lives.
  - By sending the Spirit of God to be with us after his Ascension, he made it possible for people through the centuries to experience the same Kingdom of God. And so, also us.
- 4 **New life in Jesus.** Looking back at the stories of the famous people we spoke about before, we can see how each one of their lives has been touched by God's love. Discuss with the children how our lives can also be changed by allowing God, through Jesus, to touch us and heal us with his love.

- 5 Invite the children in groups to give examples from the **stories in the Bible** where people's lives were changed by Jesus' love and compassion. If they need their memories jogged, here are some examples: Luke 8:22-25 (calming a storm), Luke 8:26-39 (exorcism), Luke 10:38-41 (the better part), Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus), Luke 23:35-43 (the crucifixion), Luke 24:13-33 (Emmaus), John 4:5-30 (the woman at the well), John 20:11-18 (Mary Magdalen), Acts 9:1-19 (Saul)
- 6 **Sing:** *Sing for Life - Ga Gona Ya Tshwanang* (p.205)

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 7 “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”

Explain that Jesus taught us by example how to live as God's children. Invite the children to give examples from biblical stories they have heard or read that reflect the above saying of Jesus about himself as well as the passage read in ACTIVITY 3. Help them to understand that it wasn't only physical blindness that Jesus was talking about. It was people not being able to “see” the love and the will of God, people who were prisoners of the Law and of the practices of the time, people who were deaf to Jesus' message of love and life.

- 8 Ask the children to draw two columns in their work books. Label the left column **WHAT DID JESUS DO?** And the right column **WHAT CHANGED IN THEIR LIVES?** Ask the learners to write in the columns some examples of what they found in ACTIVITY 5 above. You can divide them in groups and each group can give five examples. See example below.

WHAT DID JESUS DO	WHAT CHANGED IN THEIR LIVES
He fed five thousand people.	They began to see that Jesus was the Son of God.

# Famous People

## MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

The extraordinary life of Mother Teresa is well-known and spoken of all over the world. She was born on 29 August 1910 in Skopje, Albania. She was named Agnes. At the age of eighteen she decided to become a nun. By then she realised that her vocation was to serve the poor. In 1928 she went to Ireland to join the sisters of Loreto and from there Agnes was sent to India to begin her novitiate in Darjeeling. On May 14, 1937 she took her final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and became Sr Teresa. She taught in Calcutta for nineteen years.

In 1946 she felt called by God to work for the poorest of the poor by living with them. In 1948 she left Loreto convent, clothed herself with a white sari and went to Patna for a basic nursing training course. In October 1950 she founded her congregation of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. From there it spread throughout India and then to the whole world. Sister Teresa became Mother Teresa. Today there are more than 4000 Missionary sisters in 130 countries all over the world.

Mother Teresa's work for the poorest of the poor has earned her world-wide recognition. She has received the Nobel Prize for Peace among many other world famous awards. She died in September 1997. She was commonly known as: "Saint of the Gutters" and "Angel of Mercy".

She wanted to help all the poor in the world and restore in them the dignity of the human person.

## MAHATMA GANDHI, LIBERATOR OF THE OPPRESSED

Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar in West India. In 1888 he left for London to study Law. After years of study he returned to India as an advocate.

In 1893 he came to Natal, South Africa as a lawyer. As an Indian, he experienced racial oppression. In 1903 he began the non-violent struggle of the oppressed poor with great success and thereby Gandhi became a 'liberator'.

In 1915 he returned to India where he was welcomed as a great leader and a nationalist. He travelled all over India and learned about the living conditions of the people. He started several non-violent movements to defend the rights of the oppressed Indian masses. In 1942 he launched the famous "Quit India Movement" against the British and he won the long desired freedom for India. He died in 1948, when a Hindu fanatic shot him while he was walking to participate in a prayer meeting. His life has become a lesson for all ages. He was awarded Nobel Prize for Peace. Gandhi lived the highest values of Hinduism and applied also the highest Gospel principles in his quest to liberate the oppressed poor in India.

## FATHER JOSEPH GERARD, THE APOSTLE OF LESOTHO

In September 1988, Pope John Paul II, came to Lesotho in order to beatify Fr Gerard. Beatification is the official act whereby the Pope declared Fr Gerard to be a holy man.

Joseph was born in 1831 in France. He entered the seminary in 1844 and later he entered the order of the Oblates. In 1853 he was sent to Natal in South Africa as a missionary. He was ordained a priest a year later and sent to Zululand to work with the Zulus. He died in 1914.

Fr Gerard's mission to the Zulus was a time of great activity. He worked very hard but in spite of all his efforts the Zulu were not ready to be converted. In 1862 he set out on horseback for Lesotho, and it was among the Basotho people that Joseph would become a great apostle, live a holy life and die a saint. Moshoeshoe, the king of the Basotho and Joseph became true friends, they loved and respected each other.

Joseph had a vision concerning the conversion of people in Lesotho, and indeed this came true. In 1914 the year of his death there were about 15 000 Catholics in Lesotho, and by 1958 this number had increased to 250 000. The impressive thing about Fr Joseph is the quality of the service he gave. No human being was ever too small for him. He loved and served the poor as Christ himself would have done it. That is how he came to be called 'The Shepherd, the Apostle of Lesotho'.

## BISHOP MANDLA ZWANE, A MAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

Bishop Mandlenkhosi Zwane was for many a prophetic figure of the future church of Africa. He was, like so many of his fellow countrymen, a migrant worker in South Africa, and he only later he became a Catholic, a priest and eventually the first black bishop of Manzini, in his native Swaziland.

He was a supporter of the liberation movement. He worked for social justice, and was called 'the priest of the poor'. He was actively involved in the rehabilitation work for refugees from South Africa during the Apartheid regime. Mandla became the Episcopal Leader General. He was a convinced supporter of movements for economic and political liberation of the oppressed peoples in Southern Africa.

He died tragically in 1980 and the tributes from around the world are a testimony to the esteem in which he was held internationally. "Mandla may have died, but Mandlenkhosi, meaning "God's power" is still at work in Africa.