

Activity: Fact or Opinion?

(Object lesson idea from “The Last Christian Generation” by Josh McDowell)



Teaching Goal: The resurrection of Christ is a fact that each person must accept or reject, not an opinion that can be true for one person and not true for another.

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-55 Roman soldiers, disciples, religious leaders, and family members saw Jesus crucified on the cross.

John 20:1-9 Mary Magdalene, Peter and another disciple see the empty tomb.

I Corinthians 15:4-8 ...he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time...Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me {Paul} also.

Materials: Multi-flavored candy like Jelly Belly or Starburst.
Jar full of marbles or beans (count the marbles/beans in advance)
Bible, paper and pen

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion

☺ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **ACTIVITY:** Give each family member a different flavor of candy and ask them to chew it. **Which flavor is right? Listen to answers. There isn't a right flavor. The best flavor or right flavor can be different for each person...a personal preference or opinion.**

You have 30 seconds to guess how many marbles are in the jar. Write down the answers. After everyone has made their guess, together, count the marbles. **Whose guess is closest to the actual number? Listen. Does anyone question that this is the closest guess to being the right number? Listen. Does anyone question the right number of marbles? Listen.** You can take time to recount the marbles if there are family members who question the number. **The actual number of marbles is a fact. Trying to choose the right flavor of candy and reporting the exact number of marbles demonstrates the difference between an opinion and a fact.**

B. **Do you believe the resurrection of Jesus is more like a fact or an opinion? Listen to answers. (51% of Christian youth do not believe Jesus rose from the dead. Source: The Last Christian Generation) A friend may say, “Jesus being raised from the dead may be true for you but it’s not true for me.” Your friend is trying to treat the resurrection as an opinion**

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when it is actually a physical fact. A person may choose not to believe a fact which in this case means they are saying the resurrection isn't true for anyone. Treating a fact as an opinion is dangerous. It may keep us from facing the truth.

Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 27:32-55. **I am going to stop your reading each time a person or group of people are mentioned and we'll make a list of witnesses to the crucifixion of Jesus.** List the people mentioned in the passage. Invite a volunteer to read John 20:1-9. **Let's list the people at the empty tomb.** Add to the list. **After the resurrection, lots of people saw Jesus.** Invite a volunteer to read I Corinthians 15:4-8. Add to the list.

Look at all the witnesses on our list! The crucifixion is a fact, the tomb is a fact and the resurrection is a fact. Someone may choose to deny the Bible and other history books that report on the crucifixion, tomb and resurrection. But, this is not a personal preference. It is a physical event which can not be true for one person and false for another.

C. APPLICATION: Watch for conversations, news reports and television commercials that confuse fact and opinion.

V. Memorize

**The Bible has historical proof,
It's not opinion but truth.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On

The resurrection is more than a fact to be believed; it's news to be proclaimed! Please make an extra copy and share this activity with another family at church. Most of us assume our kids accept the resurrection as fact but remember, *51% of Christian kids don't believe Jesus truly rose from the grave.* When you share this activity with another family, you are giving them a tool to teach and discuss the very foundation on which Christianity stands or falls.