



EDEN,
EXODUS &
THE EMPTY TOMB

Rediscovering God's Plan
For Our Redemption



Week 3
THE EMPTY
TOMB



CONTENTS

HOW TO LEAD YOUR YCI CLUB



PLAY

Create a welcoming environment by playing a game together.



PRAY

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



GROW

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.



GO

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.



TIPS FOR USING THIS CURRICULUM

1) Familiarize

Prior to your weekly YCI club gatherings, spend time reading the curriculum to make sure you understand the game and devotional. Leading is easier when you are well-prepared!

2) Organize

The "Grow" portion of the YCI Club Curriculum gives you the "pieces" for a devotional, but it is up to you to put the pieces together. You may want to give "Book, Hook, Look & Took" a try:

- 1) **Book:** Read the Bible verses.
- 2) **Hook:** Share a brief personal story or idea that relates to the Scripture.
- 3) **Look:** Share the context of the Scripture.
- 4) **Took:** Share the takeaways from the "Learn & Apply" section.

3) Customize

Since every YCI club is different, it is important that you modify this content to fit your context. If you need help with this, we encourage you to reach out to your club's Campus Mentor!



HUMAN TIC-TAC-TOE

This game is chaotic, but it will almost certainly lead to laughs! First, a giant nine-quadrant Tic-Tac-Toe board should be formed on the ground, and there are many ways to accomplish this. You can use chalk on pavement, backpack supplies on a classroom floor, etc. You can even have a select number of students lay on the ground to form the necessary board. Next, one student should be chosen as “Player #1”, and another student should be chosen as “Player #2”. The rest of the YCI club should be divided into “X’s” and “O’s”. The rest of the process is a normal game of Tic-Tac-Toe. Alternating turns, Player #1 tries to line up three X’s, and Player #2 tries to line up three O’s. The “X” students should lay in the chosen quadrant with their arms crossed like an X, and “O” students should form a circle with their arms in the quadrants they go in. The first player to line up three in a row wins the game!



ASK GOD FOR HIS WILL TO
BE DONE IN THESE AREAS:



CLUB TIME

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.

GROUP NEEDS

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.



WHERE WE'RE GOING

While many people know the story of Jesus' death and resurrection recorded in the Gospels, they may overlook that the significance of the cross and the empty tomb is woven throughout the entire Bible, beginning at the dawn of creation.

In the “*Eden, Exodus & The Empty Tomb*” curriculum, we’re going to take a closer look at Genesis 3, Exodus 12 and Matthew 27-28 and trace four essential themes in each story:

Theme #1) The Captive

Theme #2) The Child

Theme #3) The Sacrifice

Theme #4) The Mission

As we approach the fourth week, the focus will shift to responding to what we have learned in the first three weeks. Prayerfully, as Easter Sunday approaches, many of your classmates will truly understand and embrace the reality of the empty tomb for the first time!



MATTHEW 27:32-38 (ESV)
THE CAPTIVE

32 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. **33** And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), **34** they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. **35** And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. **36** Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. **37** And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” **38** Then *two robbers were crucified with him*, one on the right and one on the left.



MATTHEW 27:39-44 (ESV)
THE CHILD

39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads **40** and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! ***If you are the Son of God***, come down from the cross.” **41** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, **42** “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. ***For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’***” **44** And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.



MATTHEW 27:45-52 (ESV) THE SACRIFICE

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” **47** And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” **48** And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. **49** But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” **50** *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.* **51** *And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.* **52** *The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.*



MATTHEW 28:1-10 (ESV)

THE MISSION

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5** *But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”* **8** So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”



MATTHEW 28:11-20 (ESV) THE MISSION (CONTINUED)

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. **12** And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers **13** and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ **14** And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” **15** So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. **16** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*



GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN IN THE EMPTY TOMB

The Captive: Israel Under Rome, Criminals On The Cross & Humanity Bound To Sin

There are multiple layers of captivity at play during Jesus' crucifixion. Beside Him are two criminals facing a similar fate. The Roman soldiers carrying out the execution represent the oppressive regime ruling the Israelites' homeland. Most importantly, however, all of humanity remains captive to the sin that began in Eden. Just as God freed the Israelites in Exodus, Jesus will secure freedom for His people.

The Child: God's Only Son

The time had come for the enemy to "bruise [Jesus'] heel" and for Jesus to "bruise [the enemy's] head" (Gen. 3:15). Jesus, the descendant of Adam and Eve through Seth's line, had come to undo the wrong that banished humanity from God's presence.

The Sacrifice: Jesus' Finished Work On The Cross

Not only is Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29) who shed His blood for us, but He is also the High Priest who facilitated His own sacrifice. Jesus was not murdered against His will, He willingly allowed Himself to be killed in order to bridge the gap between God and His creation.

The Mission: The Great Commission

After the women discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty, the angel commissioned them to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. When the disciples were all assembled, Jesus commissioned them to share the Good News and make disciples. This week, as a YCI club, we're going to invite as many friends as we can to club next week so that they can hear this message and have the opportunity to receive Jesus!



**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
(IF TIME ALLOWS)**

Question #1

What is one thing that “jumped out” to you while reading Matthew 27 and 28?

Question #2

What is one new thing you’ve learned about the Easter story through this curriculum?

Question #3

Who are you inviting to club next week to hear the Gospel? (*Spend some time praying over the names the group provides.*)



BEFORE YOU

GO

BIG IDEA



Through His defeat of death, Jesus paid the penalty for the sin that began in the Garden of Eden. True freedom can only be found through faith in Him!

SHARING TRUTH



Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.

MEETING NEEDS



What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?

CONTACT US

PHONE

704-364-2122

WEBSITE

www.yciclubs.com

EMAIL

info@yciclubs.com

ADDRESS

4108 Park Rd. Suite #101
Charlotte, NC 28209

