

The Gospel Project for Adults Spring 2016
Extended Instructional Approaches for Special Session (Easter)

Introduction: *Use a game-show format to start the lesson.*

Play a small-group version of the game show *To Tell the Truth*. Pick one person to read each index card to the group and introduce his or her character to them (or watch the linked video where available). The objective of the game is to see if the group can guess who the person is:

1. Abraham Lincoln:
 - a. This person—who read the Bible daily—never joined an organized church.
 - b. He really did have a dog whose name was Fido.
 - c. He was the only president to have a patent.
 - d. He was the first president with a beard.
 - e. He was shot on Good Friday.

2. Henry Steinway:
 - a. Play video from Paul Harvey *The Rest of the Story*:
<https://youtu.be/E8KWCgecC28>

3. Starbucks:
 - a. They opened their business in 1971.
 - b. There were no pastries sold when the company started.
 - c. All three founders of this company had been students at the University of San Francisco.
 - d. One of the founders of this business was a writer, not an expert in their product.
 - e. In 2015, there were almost 8,000 company-owned stores in the U.S. alone.

4. Moses:
 - a. He was left all alone as a baby.
 - b. He didn't think he could give very good speeches.
 - c. He doubted his capabilities as a leader.
 - d. He was said to be full of life when he died at 120 years old.
 - e. He was the only man in the Bible to have God as His undertaker.

5. Jesus:
 - a. He didn't have a Pottery Barn nursery nor did his mother register at Target Baby in his honor.
 - b. He became interested in a trade job and learned the craft.
 - c. Authorities questioned Him instead of listening to Him.
 - d. Most friends and even some family deserted Him.
 - e. He suffered great pain on two beams of wood that He created.

Point 3: *Illustrate resurrection and exaltation with an object lesson.*

There are materials needed for this option: a seed (any kind); a watering can; some soil; a picture of the sun; and a tree (a picture of a tree or a small potted tree, etc.)

Use this handout (especially if you aren't a science expert):

http://dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/forest-facts/FF-How-A-Tree-Grows_pub.pdf

[This handout is also good for parents to take home to their children.]

The lesson is that in order to have a tall and sturdy tree, a tiny little seed must first die and then rely on stimulants outside of itself in order to grow into something strong.

Below are further verses to help with illustrating the point. You may assign these verses to different group members to read in order to encourage participation:

- Psalm 1:1-3
- Matthew 7:17-19
- John 12:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 15:36

Closing Application: *Connect the resurrection with social media.*

Social media has many uses—for making announcements of all sorts from relationship statuses to gender-reveal videos for babies in the womb. Especially during political seasons, many status updates have to do with the candidate someone is going to endorse. March Madness is in full swing, and many status-updates and Twitter feeds are full of play-by-play reports. If you don't have cable service in your home, just watch your Facebook feed because most likely if anything important happens, you will know about it shortly.

A status update on any social media account is a glimpse into the life of a person. If a person is not careful, these status updates can become attempts to gain popularity, status, or to have others think more highly of him or her.

With the above information in view, in your mind, take your Facebook account back to that first Easter, the Sunday morning on which Jesus rose from the dead. What do you think would be scrolling across your feed? As you close, ask the group to give some examples of what their statuses might read.