



SESSION FIVE

Sad Thing, Glad Thing

Key Verses

Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

JOHN 20:6–8

LEADER PREPARATION

It is recommended that you read chapter 13, “No Place to Go but . . . Up!” and chapter 14, “Against All Odds!” in *He Chose You* by Max Lucado before you teach so you will be well acquainted with the stories and principles this lesson is based on.

Materials Needed:

- Trailer #1 from the movie [SING](#) (released December 2016) and TV or computer with Internet access (optional)
- Student Handouts (1 per student)
- Pens (1 per student)
- Bibles

SESSION FIVE OUTLINE

Large Group Lesson: He Chose to Give Us Victory

20 minutes

Introduction

Pair Up: Sad Thing, Glad Thing

Teaching

Illustration: Nike

Application

Small Group Discussion

20 minutes

Questions about Sad Thing, Glad Thing

Questions about Sad Thing, Bad Thing

Questions about Everything Working for Good



LARGE GROUP LESSON: He Chose to Give Us Victory

Materials Needed:

- Trailer #1 from the movie [SING](#) (released December 2016) and TV or computer with Internet access (optional)

I. Introduction

- A. Have you ever had a time in your life when God turned a sad thing into a glad thing?
- B. *Either share a story from your own life of God turning a sad thing into a glad thing, or play Trailer #1 from the movie [SING](#). Explain that the movie is about how a sad thing (the financial troubles of Buster Moon's theater) is turned into a glad thing (a singing competition saves the theater and ends up making stars out of all the erstwhile competitors).*

PAIR UP: Sad Thing, Glad Thing

Turn to your neighbor and share a time in your life when a sad thing turned into a glad thing.

II. Teaching

- A. It's early on Sunday morning. The Friday before this, Jesus had died a cruel death on a Roman cross. Friends had prepared his body for burial, and laid him in a tomb. The Romans had been afraid Jesus' followers would try to steal the body, so a large boulder was rolled over the opening of the tomb, and guards were stationed outside on a 24-hour watch.
- B. According to John's account, here's what happened that morning:

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

John 20:1-2

1. Instantly the Peter and John hurried to the tomb. John outran Peter and arrived there first. What he saw so stunned him he froze at the entrance. Let's look at today's key verses, John 20:6–8:

Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

John 20:6-8

2. What did he see? "Strips of linen cloth" (John 20:5).
 - a. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was now folded up and laid in a different place from the strips of linen.
 - b. These burial wraps had not been ripped off and thrown down.
 - c. They were still in their original state! The linens were undisturbed. The graveclothes were still rolled and folded.
4. Through the rags of death, John saw the power of life. God had taken the wrappings of death and made them the picture of life.
5. John would tell you God can turn any tragedy into a triumph.

C. Illustration:

1. How many of you own something made by Nike? *Ask students to raise their hands.* Do you know how Nike got its name? *Give students a chance to answer.* The word *nike* is actually a Greek noun *niké* (*nee-kay*), which means "victory." It's related to the verb *nikáō* (*nee-kay-oh*), which means "to conquer."
2. The apostle John uses both words when he writes, "Everyone who is a child of God conquers [nikáō] the world. And this is the victory [niké] that conquers [nikáō] the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4 NCV).
3. The resurrection of Jesus means all our tragedies may become something beautiful. "In everything God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28 ncv). In *everything*.

- D. Jesus' resurrection means that sin and death have been conquered and that we may share in Jesus' victory (see Colossians 2:15).
 - 1. At the cross, God won the victory. "But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!" (1 Corinthians 15:57 MSG).

III. Application

- A. Think about the tragedies you have faced, and how God been at work in those very things to bring about a triumph. God will turn tragedies to triumphs if you only wait and watch.
- B. In order for the cross of Christ to be the cross of our lives, we need to bring something to the hill. We can bring our bad moments and our mad moments: bad habits, selfish moods, white lies, binges, and jealousies.
- C. We can bring the fears we have about our *final* moments to the cross as well. Jesus has even conquered death. For many people, the fear of death is their greatest fear. But the fact that Jesus left the graveclothes behind tells us there are *no mummies in heaven*—Jesus defeated everything having to do with death and sin.
- D. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25–26). Do you believe Jesus? This Easter Jesus offers you eternal life. Will you receive it as God's gift to you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

At this time, if your group is larger than 10 students, break up into discussion groups of 4 to 6, with an adult facilitator or student leader. Pass out the student handouts, pens, and Bibles.

Materials Needed:

- Student Handouts (1 per student)
- Pens (1 per student)
- Bible

Questions about Sad Thing, Glad Thing:

What are a few other biblical instances where God took a sad thing and made it into a glad thing? For every example you think of, answer the following questions:

1. What was the sad thing?
2. What glad thing did it become?
3. What made it turn into a glad thing? (ideas: God's miracle, the person's surrender, the person's obedience, the person's change of heart)

Example:

Everyone on earth was so rebellious, God had to flood the whole earth, which was a sad thing. But the glad thing is that he saved Noah and his family and the animals because Noah obeyed God and built an ark.

Questions about Sad Thing, Bad Thing:

What examples in the Bible can you think of where a sad thing turned into a bad thing? For every example you think of, answer the following questions:

1. What was the sad thing?
2. What bad thing did it become?
3. What made it turn into a bad thing? (ideas: disobedience, rebellion, ignoring God)

Example:

Judas, one of the disciples, took money to betray Jesus—a very sad thing. It became a bad thing when he led the soldiers to Jesus and had him arrested. Judas did this because he was angry with Jesus for not trying to take over the army and defeat the Romans, so he rebelled against God's plan.

Questions about Everything Working for Good:

1. After thinking about these biblical examples about sad things turning to either glad things or bad things, what conclusions can you draw for your own life?
2. When we have sad things happen in our lives, one of the most comforting verses is Romans 8:28 (NLT): *(Have a volunteer read this verse out loud)*

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Do this simple exercise. Think about a sad thing in your life. It could be something you are going through right now or something that happened to you in the past. Think of an object that might symbolize that sad thing. Here are some ideas:

- Crutches from a sports injury
- Report card
- Detention slip
- Tryouts results list, without your name on it
- Speeding ticket
- Hospital ID bracelet

Now take turns reading Romans 8:28 out loud, but replace the word everything with the symbol of your sad thing. If you want, you can shift all the words so this verse is about you personally.

Example:

I know that God causes my hospital ID bracelet to work together for my good; I love God and I am called according to his purpose for me.

Pray Together:

Say something like: We are going to pray for each other, and we will each trust God to turn the sad things that were mentioned into glad things.

Easter/Lent Focus:

We are challenging all our students to join with the rest of the church and read *He Chose You* in the weeks leading up to Easter. This week's readings will help us understand how God can turn tragedy into triumph. Please read chapters 13–15 in *He Chose You*.