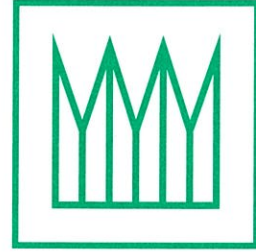


## Question 49

# Where is Christ now?



## Answer

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

### Big Idea

Jesus Christ rose from the grave and, in his resurrected body, ascended into heaven.

### Aim

To help the children understand that Jesus lives and reigns even though he is not on earth.

### Bible Passage

Ephesians 1:15–23

### Memory Verse

“He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.” (Eph. 1:20–21)

### Virtue

Perseverance





## Notes

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### Leader's Notes

Children can understand that Jesus had a body while he lived on earth because they are familiar with his earthly ministry. They may not have considered that Jesus's resurrection and ascension involved a physical body. Children appreciate the concrete, but struggle a little more with abstract thoughts. This question will introduce the children to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead physically and should help them see that Jesus's bodily resurrection and ascension are core doctrines for Christians. This lesson aims to help children understand the physical nature of Jesus's resurrection and ascension, to clarify for them where Jesus is now, and also to show how the resurrection gives Christians great hope.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- This may be a new concept for some of the children. Work hard to creatively help them understand the reality that Jesus is now in heaven at the right hand of God.
- Be sure to explain that the bodily resurrection of Jesus is key to the Christian faith.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

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### Leader's Prayer

Powerful God, thank you for displaying your greatness by raising Jesus from the dead and seating him at your right hand in heaven. May he receive my rightful praise and honor as ruler over all. Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May

they be thrilled by your power, encouraged by the bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and filled with hope as they understand the implications for each of us. In Jesus's name. Amen.

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### Leader's Tool Kit

- Jumbo craft (popsicle) sticks (53)
- Permanent marker
- Timer (a cell phone timer will do)
- Cup
- Q49 Illustrations of Famous Homes (RB)
- List of Bible references
- Pens and paper



- Q49 Seats of Power (RB), one per child
- Sticky Tack or tape
- The memory verse or catechism question and answer written on a poster

**10 Catechism Recap**

*Write numbers one to forty-eight on the jumbo craft sticks. Place the sticks in a cup with the number side down so the children can't see what they're pulling out. Also place five sticks with the word RESET written on them into the cup. Set a timer for five minutes.*

Invite the children to take turns pulling a stick from the cup. Challenge them to see if

they can remember the question and answer that relates to the number. If they get it right (or come close), they get to keep the stick. The person with the most sticks when the timer goes off gets a prize. Explain to the children that there's a catch: if someone pulls a RESET stick from the cup, everyone must return their sticks to the cup and start over (but keep the time running).

**5 Introduction to Question 49**

*Have on hand the Q49 Illustrations of Famous Homes (RB)*

- *The White House*
- *Cinderella's Castle*
- *Gingerbread House from Hansel and Gretel*
- *Rapunzel's Tower*

Show the children the homes one by one and invite them to guess who resides in each one. Tell the children that each house is where someone lives; it is the physical location that they inhabit. Introduce the children to Question 49: "Where is Christ now?" Explain to the children that this question will help them to understand where Jesus Christ has been since leaving this earth.

**10 Activity**



*Give each child a Bible. Print out several copies of the following list of references (Q48 Activity [DL]):*

- *John 14:28*
- *Luke 22:69*
- *Colossians 3:1*
- *Hebrews 1:3*
- *1 Peter 1:8*

Divide the children into small groups, and give each group a list of references. Appoint



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a notetaker for each group and give him or her a pen and paper. Tell the children to take turns looking up and reading the references while the notetaker writes down everything these verses tell you about where Jesus is now. Once the children have had

some time to read the verses, ask them to share what they've discovered. Particularly highlight for the children the truth that Jesus was resurrected bodily and that he now lives in heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father.

## 15 Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

**Read Ephesians 1:15–23.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along.

Explain that this part of the letter to the Ephesians is actually a prayer. The writer of the letter, Paul, is praying that the Ephesian Christians would know more and more about the power and greatness of God.

Ask the children to identify people they think are really powerful. Ask them why they perceive some people to be powerful.

Explain to the children that there is no one as powerful as God, and this passage highlights just how powerful God is. God displayed his incredible power when he raised Jesus from the dead on the third day after he was crucified. Show the children where Paul says this in verses 19 and 20. God the Father also did more than raise Jesus from the dead; he caused him to ascend into heaven! Emphasize to the children that when Jesus rose from the dead, he had a body. People walked and talked with Jesus,

and he ate food. In those respects, his body was just like ours. But after his resurrection, he could do things we could not do, such as walk through walls!

It is probably worth mentioning to the children that the bodily resurrection of Jesus is one of the most disputed but also most investigated aspects of Christianity. Christians throughout the ages have confidently believed that Jesus was raised from the dead and that we too will one day receive a resurrected body.

Remind the children that Jesus stayed on earth for only forty days after his resurrection. Jesus (in his body) went back to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. Ask the children what they think it means to sit at someone's right hand. Explain that it is a position of special honor. When Jesus sat at God's right hand, God gave him authority over all things.

Ask the children what Jesus was made the head of in verse 22. Jesus is head of the church, which is described in verse 23 as Christ's body. God gives his precious Son Jesus to be the head of the church with all his



power and authority. Ask the children what role the head plays for a body.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit **Question 49** and the answer to memory.

*(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)*

**10 Activity**



Give a copy of *Q49 Seats of Power (RB)* to each student.

Tell the children to write in the blank what kind of person would sit in each seat. Answers (clockwise): king, judge, Son of God, president.

**5 Discussion and Question Time**

Some questions that might arise include:

**? If Jesus is in heaven, how can he be with us here on earth?**

Explain to the children that, bodily, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, but he also promised to be with all Christians through the Holy Spirit.

why John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Also use this opportunity to help the children think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

**? Has Jesus always had a body?**

No. Though Jesus has always existed, he was not given a body until he became man and was born in Bethlehem. This is

- Ask the children if they’ve ever thought about where Jesus lives now.
- Ask the children if they believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus.
- Ask if understanding Jesus’s resurrection affects how they think about death.

**10 Virtue Vision**



**Perseverance**

Visit the website [www.prisoneralert.com](http://www.prisoneralert.com), a site operated by *Voice of the Martyrs*. Find details about a Christian who is currently in prison for his or her faith.

Tell the children that in Ephesians 1:18 Paul prays that the Ephesians would know the hope that they had been called to and the glorious inheritance of the saints. Explain that Paul is referring to all the blessings that



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Christians have in knowing and trusting Jesus both in this life and in eternal life.

Explain to the children that understanding the Christian hope helps Christians persevere in life. We know that Jesus has not left us forever. One day he is going to return to take us to be with him forever.

Ask the children what it means for someone who has been imprisoned for his or her

faith to persevere. Help them to see that not denying Christ is one way to persevere. Another is to hope in eternal life, even if you know you may never make it out of prison alive.

Spend a few minutes praying for the imprisoned Christian. Pray that he or she would know that Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and that this knowledge would lead to perseverance.

### 10 Memory Activity

*You will need a ball and the memory verse or catechism question and answer on a piece of poster board. Have some pieces of paper and Sticky Tack or tape handy that you can place over the words of the verse to cover them up.*

- Put the memory verse or catechism question and answer on a poster on the wall.
- Divide the children into two teams.
- Have the children read through the memory verse with you several times.
- Gradually cover up the words of the memory verse.

- Arrange the teams in two straight lines facing each other.

Throw the ball to a child, and tell him or her to say the first word of the memory verse or catechism question. That child will then throw the ball to a child on the opposite team, who is expected to say the second word of the memory verse. Continue down the line. If a child doesn't remember the word or gets it wrong, he or she should throw the ball and then sit down. The team with the most team members still standing at the end wins the game.

### 5 Closing Prayer Time

Pray that the children might rejoice that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and that they might know the hope of eternity that the resurrection brings.