



## Jesus is Alive

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 28:1-15

**Memory Verse:** **10** This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **1 John 4:10 (NLT)**

**Bottom Line:** I will live for Jesus because He is alive.

**Big Picture Question:** Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to forgive us from our sins and came back to life to show that we are forgiven.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.*

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

#### Scrambled Eggs

**What You Need:** 5 paper bags, 75 eggs (need at least 15 different colored or patterned eggs per group)

#### What You Do:

- This is a partner game that uses a paper bag and plastic Easter eggs.
- Prior to playing, ask a volunteer to prepare your paper bags.
- You'll need one paper bag filled with mixed-up eggs for each pair of children.
- On "GO," the partners have to work together to take the mixed-up, or scrambled, eggs out of their paper bag and fix them by putting matching tops and bottoms back together.
- The catch? They can each only use one of their hands during this minute... the hand they DON'T write with.
- They have to keep their writing-hand behind their back during the game, working together to take the eggs out, pull them apart, and snap them back together correctly.
- At the end of one minute, the pair with the greatest number of matching eggs is the winner.

**What You Say** "Way to go teams. Did you think that was going to be easy? In our Bible stories the next few weeks we are going to hear some hard things about Jesus and how people treated Him. The Jewish leaders did not believe He was God. All along though God is working things out in the perfect way to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it now."

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

TEACHING FOCUS (Matthew 28)

*Last time, we learned about Jesus' crucifixion, or His death on the cross. Jesus' followers were confused. How could Jesus save people if He was dead? But Jesus died in order to save people from sin.*

*Today's Bible story happened shortly after Jesus' death—on the third day—and it shows us how we know Jesus has victory over sin and death. Our story is called "Jesus' Resurrection." Resurrection means "the act of rising from the dead."*

Just when Jesus' disciples thought all hope was lost ... Jesus was resurrected on the third day. Peter and John saw the empty tomb. Mary saw the empty tomb, and then she saw Jesus! Mary told the disciples that she had seen Jesus—alive!



Now, what did the guards do when they saw that the tomb was empty? They hurried back and told the religious leaders what had happened. But the religious leaders did not want people to know that Jesus had risen from the dead. They made a plan to lie and say that the disciples stole Jesus' body. Some people believed their lie, but that did not stop the truth from spreading. Word got out: Jesus is alive!

*Do you know why it is so important that Jesus was resurrected on the third day? Think about it: What if Jesus had stayed dead? Every other religious leader has died, but only Jesus came back to life. Jesus rose from the dead because God was satisfied with His sacrifice. His resurrection shows His power over death.*

*Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all creation. [See Phil. 2:9-10.]*

## CONTEXT

*The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.*

*The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!*

*John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciples stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.*

*If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom. 6:5; 8:11.)*

*Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:7 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.*

*Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil. 2:9-10)*

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- **After Jesus died on the cross, they laid Him in a tomb.**
- *When His friends came to the tomb on Sunday, they expected to find His body but they didn't. The tomb was empty.*
- *Where was Jesus? An angel told them that He is not dead - but ALIVE.*
- *He did for our sins and rose again to prove that He is God.*
- *BL: I will live for Jesus because He is alive.*

*Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him*

## 25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

### Discussion Questions:

- Which two disciples went into Jesus' empty tomb? (Peter and John, John 20:4-8)
- Before Mary recognized Jesus, who did she think He was? (the gardener, John 20:15)
- What did Mary do after she saw Jesus? (She went to tell the other disciples, John 20:18)
- Now guide kids to discuss these questions:
  - Why is it important that Jesus was raised from the dead?
  - What did Jesus' resurrection prove?



- Where is Jesus today?

**Activity: He Lives**

**What You Need:** He Lives cutouts (1 per kid), markers, jelly bean stickers

**What You Do:**

- Pass out the He Lives cutouts to each kid.
- Give kids time to décorate their cutout as they wish.
- Kids can also use Jelly Bean stickers to décorate their cutout.
- As kids décorate go through the discussion questions and review the things we have talked about leading up to Jesus death and resurrection. If kids have questions do your best to help them answer their questions. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask.

**What You Say** The fact that Jesus' tomb was empty is really good news for us! Jesus is alive, which means He has defeated death and sin! God showed His power when **Jesus was resurrected on the third day**. When we believe in Jesus for life, His power defeats the sin in our lives too.

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, strips of paper (1" wide, 30 per group), tape or stapler, pencils

**What You Do:**

- Pass out strips of paper and instruct children to work together to write two or three words of the memory verse on each strip, using the memory verse poster as a guide.
- Then take the poster away and lead children to make a chain out of the strips of paper by making loops out of each strip and connecting them to each other in the correct order using tape.
- When finished, invite kids to say the memory verse together.

**What You Say** "Our Memory Verse is a good reminder of why Jesus died the way He did, when He did and who it was for. Did you ever think about it being out of love? God says, "This is real love!" Real love helped the perfect lamb be lead to slaughter and then rise in 3 days to show that He is God and always was. He was the one God would send to make us "right with Him."

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Say:**

"God, thank You so much for rescuing us from our sin through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. What amazing grace You have shown us, even though we don't deserve it. We praise You because You have defeated death by Your awesome power. Amen.

**5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about Jesus' last Supper. What was God doing? **BL-** : **I will live for Jesus because He is alive.**