



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

Spoon the Eggs

What You Need: plastic spoon (1 per kid), 4 bowls or buckets, plastic Easter Eggs (50 per group), sticker for prizes

What You Do:

- This is a minute to win it game with 2 teams.
- Break your group into 2 teams.
- Each team will take turns (1 player at a time) scooping eggs with a spoon in their mouth to another bucket.
- Each player gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- When their time is up the next person gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- Keep playing until all the eggs have been moved or each person gets a turn, whichever comes first.
- Team with the most eggs moved wins.

What You Say "Way to work together to move those eggs. In our stories the next few weeks we will be looking at the last days of Jesus' life. Throughout the whole story we can see where God was working to make everything happen at just the right time to give us a way to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it."

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.



All Star Kids

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Kinder – 2nd grade

- 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, Memory Verse Word Cards (printed and cut apart- 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Lay the Memory Verse Word Cards on the floor/table face down.
- Take turns picking up a card at a time and putting it in order.
- Keep going until all the words have been turned over.
- Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say "Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us the most. He proved by sending His Son to live a perfect life and be the blameless sacrifice for us to be made right with God because of our sins. That is true love."

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.**