

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.*

LEADERNOTES:

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)

TEACHING FOCUS

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.]

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.**

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

What Time is It Mr. Clock?

What you Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Choose an adult leader to be *Mr. Clock*.
- Lead preschoolers to stand at the opposite end of the room from *Mr. Clock*.
- *Mr. Clock* should have his back to the group.
- Lead preschoolers to call out "What time is it, Mr. Clock?"
- *Mr. Clock* then calls out a time that is on the hour such as 1 o'clock or 12 o'clock.
- Preschoolers should take that many steps toward *Mr. Clock*.
- When the group gets to where *Mr. Clock* is—but not past him—and asks the time, *Mr. Clock* may call out "Midnight!" and then turn and chase the group back to the start.
- Play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"If you asked Jesus what time it was in today's Bible story, He would have said it was time for Him to do God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus would soon die on the cross and come back to life to save people from sin. Listen to hear what happened on Jesus' way to the cross.

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at John 20 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: "God speaks to us through the Bible. People wrote God's words in the Bible, and all God's words are true. Today's Bible story is in two of the Gospels: Matthew and John. The Gospels tell about Jesus' life on earth."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

Three days after Jesus died, Mary and some other women went to the tomb where they put Jesus. They brought sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body. They were so sad! When they reached Jesus' tomb, the huge stone was rolled away and a man in bright clothes was sitting on it. "Why are you looking for Jesus here? He is alive!" the angel said. Then they saw Jesus! The women ran to tell the friends the good news. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found the cloth that was wrapped around Jesus, but Jesus was not there! Peter was confused, but John believed. Jesus is alive!

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: *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. 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.]

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "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)**"

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. He Lives Parade

What you Need: He Lives Flags, Party blowers, balloons

What You Do:

- Pass out a flag and party blower for each kid.
- Tell them to make a line behind you and lead a parade celebrating Jesus is Alive! (you can walk around the kids area celebrating if other leaders are aware.)
- Ask kids to shout He is not here, He is Alive.
- Kids can take their party supplies home.

What You Say: The tomb was empty because **Jesus is alive**. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**This is real love** (draw a heart)—**not that we loved God** (point to heaven), **but that he loved us** (point to each kid) **and sent his Son** (rock a baby)**as a sacrifice to take away our sins** (make a cross with your body). **1 John 4:10**

What You Say: Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us most. He sent Jesus to live a perfect life as God, die on the cross, and raise in 3 days so that we could know God. That is real love.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God, thank You for raising Jesus from the dead! Help us to turn from our sin and trust in Him so that we can live forever with You. Amen.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the party supplies and tell families, we are talking about Jesus sacrifice for our sins and God's love for us in allowing Jesus to do and be that for us.