



Jesus Comes Back to Life

Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

Few children this age have experienced the death of a loved one, so they don't understand the permanence of death. In their world of pretend, it's no big deal for people to die and then come back to life. As a result, preschoolers may not see Jesus' death and resurrection for the miracle that it is. Use this lesson to help your children understand that Jesus' resurrection was an amazing, miraculous thing that shows God's great power and love.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus is alive.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Jesus Loves Me Play a game to discover Jesus' love for them.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, foam hearts	Hide the foam hearts around the room.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Learn with Theo about why we celebrate Easter.	CD player, Theo puppet, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "Easter Lily" picture 	Cut out the Easter lily and tape it to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: An Emotional Day Explore the emotions of those who saw Jesus die.	Bible, CD player, white crayon, other crayons Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus Has Come Back to Life!" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Use a white crayon to cover the inside of the tomb on the poster so a colored crayon can't write on it.

Key Verse

"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will celebrate that Jesus is alive.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: A Splash of Emotion</p> <p>Use watercolors to show the happiness of Jesus' friends.</p>	My Bible Hugs, newspapers, paintbrushes, cups of water, watercolor paints	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Flowerpot Snack</p> <p>Create a pretend flowerpot, and be reminded that Jesus is alive like flowers.</p>	paper cups, plastic spoons, chocolate pudding, chocolate cookies, silk flowers, bowls, antibacterial gel (optional)	Crush chocolate cookies to make coarse crumbs. Fill several bowls with cookie crumbs and several with chocolate pudding.
	<p>Center 3: Jesus, Jesus, Where Are You?</p> <p>Play a game to find out where Jesus was when his friends couldn't find him in the tomb.</p>	plastic Easter egg Teacher Pack: "Jesus" stickers	Attach 2 "Jesus" stickers back to back, and hide them inside the plastic egg.
	<p>Center 4: Alive!</p> <p>Do things to show they are alive.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer</p> <p>Take turns sitting up and thanking Jesus that he's alive.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2), "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **All the kids have come to church,** (*spread arms wide*)
And we're so glad to be here. (*clap hands*)
All the kids have come to praise (*raise hands toward heaven*)
The Lord that we hold so dear. (*clasp hands to chest*)
All the children praise the Lord. (*wave hands above head*)
All the children praise him. (*wave hands above head*)
All the children praise the Lord. (*wave hands above head*)
Now aren't you glad you're here? (*nod head*)
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **I love singing with you. I'm so glad we can praise Jesus together. Let's sing another song to Jesus.**

Sing "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Jesus, Jesus, I love you,** (*cross arms over chest*)
And I know you love me, too. (*point up*)
You have died for all my sin, (*hold arms out as if hanging on a cross*)
And you came to life again. (*clap twice*)
Jesus, Jesus, I love you, (*cross arms over chest*)
And I know you love me, too. (*point up*)
 (*Repeat.*)

Say: **I'm glad you came to church today. I'm so excited that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, and that we can sing and praise God for the amazing things he does.**



2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Jesus Loves Me

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Galatians 2:20, and show children the words. Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." That means that when we believe in Jesus he's a part of our lives—and I know that Jesus loved me and gave himself for me. Let's say that together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).**

Say: **I put some hearts in the room to show that Jesus' love is all around us. God loves us so much that we can see his love all day long. See if you can find the hearts that remind us of God's love.** After kids find all the hearts, sing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 7 on the CD) with them—in the first part, you'll sing each line and kids will echo you. In the second part, they'll answer each of your questions with "Jesus!"



Jesus loves me, (echo)

This I know, (echo)

For the Bible (echo)

Tells me so. (echo)

Little children (echo)

To him belong. (echo)

They are weak, but (echo)

He's so strong! (echo)

Jaaaayyy! (J)

Eeeeeeee! (E)

Ssssssss! (S)

Uuuuuu! (U)

Ssssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)

And who do you love? (Jesus!)

And who loves you? (Jesus!)

Who died for you? (Jesus!)

And who's your guy? (Jesus!)

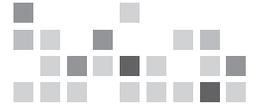
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)

And who's your friend? (Jesus!)

He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Jesus Loves Me Supplies

-
- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- foam hearts
- CD: "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 7)

Jesus Loves Me Easy Prep

-
- Hide the foam hearts around the room.





Say: **Jesus died on a cross to forgive your sins. Let's say our Key Verse one more time: Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **You found a lot of love hearts around the room. God's love is all around us.**
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are things that God does to show he loves you?**
- **Tell about a time you did something wrong and God forgave you.**

Say: **Sometimes we do bad things, like not obeying our parents. But Jesus loves us so much that he wants to be friends with us even though we do bad things. Jesus took our punishment for the bad things we do so we can be friends with him. Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. Every time we see a cross, we can remember that God brought Jesus back to life— ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
scissors
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)
"Easter Lily" picture

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Cut out the Easter lily
and tape it to Theo's
paw.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What did you bring with you?

Theo: I brought this beautiful flower.

Teacher: It is a beautiful flower—it's an Easter lily. But why did you bring it today?

Theo: I saw some kids carrying these flowers, and they were talking about how Jesus died for them and then came back to life again. Can you tell me what that means?

Teacher: Sure, Theo. An Easter lily is a flower that reminds us of how much Jesus loves us. Jesus never did anything wrong, but he took the punishment for all the wrong things we've done.

Theo: Why would he take the punishment for things people did?

Teacher: Because he loves us and that was the only way we could be friends with him. Jesus died, but he came back to life! Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**)

Teacher: The Easter lily is alive—just like Jesus. Let's all celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** (Encourage the kids to shout and jump as they celebrate that Jesus is alive. Move Theo in an excited way, and have him shout as well.)



Theo: I'm so glad that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** I'm going to go celebrate Easter with my family.

Teacher: Good idea, Theo. Thanks for coming today. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does your family do to celebrate Easter?**
- **What do you think about Jesus dying and then coming back to life for you?**

Say: **The Easter lily is a living flower, and it's beautiful. I love seeing Easter lilies because they remind me that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Today we'll learn more about Jesus dying and coming back to life.**

Bible Time: An Emotional Day

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Matthew 27, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

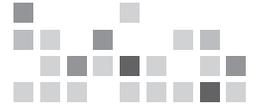
Set the "Jesus Has Come Back to Life!" poster on the floor, and have the kids gather in a circle around it. Point to the open tomb on the poster. Say: **The Bible tells us that Jesus died on a cross and his friends put him in a tomb. They rolled a giant stone in front of the tomb to close it. Let's draw Jesus in the tomb.** Encourage each child to try to draw Jesus inside the tomb. The colored crayons won't work over the white crayon, so the children will soon find it impossible to draw Jesus inside the tomb.

Say: **We can't draw Jesus in the tomb! Jesus really died and he was in the tomb. But on the third day, something amazing happened! Something more powerful than anything! Let's draw Jesus somewhere else on the poster.** Have each child draw a picture of Jesus on a different part of the poster. Then say: **We can draw Jesus everywhere except inside the tomb! That's because on the third day, Jesus came back to life! Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore because ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's listen to the Bible to find out how Jesus came back to life after dying.**

Begin the "An Emotional Day" (track 8 on the CD), and follow the directions with the children. Then say: **The people thought they'd never see Jesus again after he died. They were very sad.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.



Bible Time: An Emotional Day Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- white crayon
- other crayons

Teacher Pack

- CD: "An Emotional Day" (track 8)
- "Jesus Has Come Back to Life!" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: An Emotional Day Easy Prep

Use a white crayon to cover the inside of the tomb on the poster so a colored crayon can't write on it.





Ask:

- What did you hear that you thought was exciting?
- Why are you excited that Jesus is alive?

Say: **Jesus' friends were very sad when he died. They thought they'd never see him again, but he came back to life! ► JESUS IS ALIVE! We can be his friends forever because he's alive!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

A Splash of Emotion

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Spread newspapers over a work surface, and give each child a My Bible Hugs page and a paintbrush. Say: **What colors do you love—what colors make you happy? The day Jesus rose from the dead was a bright, wonderful day—and it's a wonderful day for us, too. Decorate your page with your favorite colors to show a happy, bright day.** Have kids paint the pictures to show their happiness that Jesus is alive.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you make your pictures look bright and happy?
- What can you tell someone else about Jesus to bring them happiness?

Say: **When the women went to the cave where Jesus was buried, they felt sad and gloomy that their friend had died. But when they heard that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, they were happy and excited. We painted our pictures to show this bright, happy day. And we can tell others about Jesus to bring them a bright, happy day, too.**

Center 1: A Splash of Emotion Supplies

My Bible Hugs
newspapers
paintbrushes
cups of water
watercolor paints

Center 1: A Splash of Emotion Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.



CENTER 2:

Flowerpot Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Give each child a small paper cup, a plastic spoon, and a clean silk flower. Place the bowls of cookie crumbs and chocolate pudding around the table so each child can easily reach them. Have children scoop chocolate pudding into their cups until they're about three-fourths full. Then have children sprinkle cookie crumbs on top of the pudding.

Say: **In the winter, flowers and other plants die. It can seem gloomy in the winter—everything gets kind of brown like these cookie crumbs and pudding. But in the spring, the flowers and other plants come back to life! It makes me happy to see pretty flowers blooming.** Have kids “plant” the flowers in the pudding dirt. **Spring flowers remind me of Jesus because he came back to life in the spring, too. Now ► JESUS IS ALIVE and he always will be!**

Let's pray and thank Jesus that he's alive. Lead kids in prayer and then let them eat. When they're finished, say: **Now all the “dirt” from your cups is gone, but the flower is still there—that's like Jesus—he's alive and always will be alive! Now that's something to celebrate! Keep your flowers to remind you that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

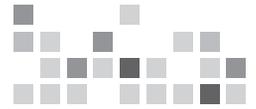
CENTER 3:

Jesus, Jesus, Where Are You?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle, and place a chair in the center. Choose one child to start the game and sit on the chair. Show kids the plastic egg, and say: **This is our egg tomb. The person in the center will cover his eyes while the rest of you choose someone to take the egg tomb and hide it behind his or her back.** Have the child in the center cover his or her eyes. Then place the plastic egg under the chosen child's chair. Tell all the children to be very quiet as they choose a child to take the egg tomb from under the chair. Have the child hide the egg behind his or her back, and tell the other children to pretend to hide eggs behind their backs also. Remind the kids not to tell who has the real egg tomb.

Once the egg tomb is hidden, have the child uncover his or her eyes. Say: **When Mary went to visit Jesus' tomb, she thought he was dead. She wondered where he was. Will you chant, “Jesus, Jesus, where are you?” with me?** Have kids chant with you. As they do, give the child in the center three chances to guess where Jesus went. Then let the child who's hiding the tomb open it up and pull out Jesus for everyone to see. Have kids again chant, “Jesus, Jesus is alive!” Play several rounds, choosing new players so everyone has a turn to guess or hide the tomb.



Center 2: Flowerpot Snack Supplies

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- paper cups
- plastic spoons
- chocolate pudding
- chocolate cookies
- silk flowers
- bowls
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Flowerpot Snack Easy Prep

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Crush chocolate cookies to make coarse crumbs. Fill several bowls with cookie crumbs and several with chocolate pudding.

Center 3: Jesus, Jesus, Where Are You? Supplies

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- plastic Easter egg
- Teacher Pack**
- “Jesus” stickers

Center 3: Jesus, Jesus, Where Are You? Easy Prep

.....
Attach 2 “Jesus” stickers back to back, and hide them inside the plastic egg.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to look for and find Jesus in this game?
- Why is it great that Jesus is alive?

Say: Some people were afraid that Jesus' body would be stolen. So when the women couldn't find Jesus in the cave where he was buried, they thought someone had stolen Jesus. But after they saw the angel, they knew that Jesus wasn't stolen. They knew that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

■ CENTER 4:

Alive!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **We learned in the Bible that Jesus died on the cross, but God brought him back to life. ► JESUS IS ALIVE! When you're alive you can clap your hands. Do that with me.** Lead kids in clapping their hands. **Great job! When you're alive you can also stand up and sit down. Stand up and sit down with me.** Lead kids in standing up and sitting down and then standing up once more. **When you're alive you can shout. Shout "Jesus is alive" with me!** Lead kids in shouting. **When you're alive you can also see things with your eyes. Find something [choose a color] in the room.** Let kids take turns naming things that are that color. Then say: **What other things can you do to show you're alive?** If time allows, let each child name something and have everyone do it.

Say: **When Jesus died, he didn't clap his hands, shout, or see with his eyes. He was dead. But God brought him back to life!**

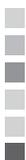
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would you do if something was dead and came back to life?
- Who do you want to tell the amazing news that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE?**

Say: **Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. He didn't talk or move. He was not alive. But God brought him back to life! ► JESUS IS ALIVE, even today!**





5

LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. I would like each of you to choose a way that you can celebrate and tell the message that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Read the three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

- **Draw a cross for each person in your family. When you give family members the crosses, remind them that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but now he's alive!**
- **Invite your friends and family to your house for a party to celebrate that Jesus is alive.**
- **Act out this week's Bible passage with family or friends. When you're finished, throw confetti or streamers to celebrate that Jesus is alive.**

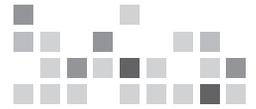
Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children lie on the ground. Say: **Jesus died and they put him in a tomb. But he came back to life.** Have kids practice lying down like Jesus in the tomb and then sitting up when you say ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Then say: **Let's thank Jesus for coming back to life. Stay lying down, and when I point to you, sit up and say "Thank you, Jesus, that you're alive!"** Have kids stay sitting after they've prayed. If a child doesn't want to pray, let him or her just sit up. After every child has had a turn, close the prayer.

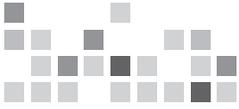
Say: **That was a great prayer! I'm so glad that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.