

Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8



► Bible Point

Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will evaluate what they believe about Jesus and grow closer to him.

Kids are used to seeing special effects. The big screen is filled with intergalactic conflicts, time travel, and unstoppable superheroes. Compared with today’s dizzying array of unbelievable feats, kids may view Jesus’ coming back to life with a certain amount of complacency. Help them understand that today’s lesson is about the greatest event in human history! Not only did the event actually happen, unlike the media-produced productions kids are used to, but it has eternal implications for every human ever born. Beat *that*, Hollywood!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Easter Egg Hunt <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find eggs with symbols of Easter.</p>	<p>1 plastic egg per child Teacher Pack: “Easter Symbol” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Easter Symbol” cards, and place 1 card inside each plastic egg. Then hide eggs inside the room or outside.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience parts of the Bible.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, dark chocolate chips, small paper cups, tape Teacher Pack: CD, “Easter” poster</p> 	
	<p>Easter Part 2: At the Tomb <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Understand what it was like to find Jesus’ empty tomb.</p>	<p>CD player, scissors, paper, pens, markers, perfume or air freshener Teacher Pack: CD, “Easter” poster, netting, ribbon</p> 	<p>Cut the ribbon into 6-inch lengths.</p> <p>Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Jesus or the World? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Compare Jesus with the world.	Bible, poster board, balloon, masking tape, pin (or toothpick) Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline	Cut out a large cross from the poster board. Cover the cross completely with masking tape. Blow up a balloon, and cover it completely with one layer of masking tape.
	Celebration Mural <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a mural to learn the Key Verse, and consider what Jesus' resurrection means to them.	Bibles; 11 x 17 sheets of paper; tape; painting or drawing supplies, such as sidewalk chalk, crayons, markers, or paint; paintbrushes	Hang the paper throughout the room to create a sort of gallery. You'll need 1 sheet of paper per child. Set out art supplies.
	The Gate to God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share about a relationship with Jesus.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens Teacher Pack: "Easter" poster 	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Easter Egg Hunt Supplies

1 plastic egg per child
Teacher Pack
 “Easter Symbol” cards

Easter Egg Hunt Easy Prep

Separate the “Easter Symbol” cards and place 1 card inside each plastic egg. Then hide eggs inside the room or outside.

Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour Supplies

Bibles
 CD player
 dark chocolate chips
 small paper cups
 tape
Teacher Pack
 CD: “A Dark Hour”
 (track 10)
 “Easter” poster

! ALLERGY ALERT

Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour Easy Prep

Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.

1 GETTING STARTED

Easter Egg Hunt

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Direct kids to the area where the Easter egg hunt will take place, and explain that the kids will each find one egg.

When everyone has found an egg, return to a large group. Ask kids to open their eggs and see what’s inside. Then have willing kids share their symbols of Easter. Briefly discuss the symbols and their meanings. For example, baby animals could represent new birth and starting fresh.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the different ways people celebrate Easter?
- Why is Easter so important?

Say: **Easter is celebrated in many different ways. Some people think of bunnies. Some think of flowers. Some even think of the rock that covered Jesus’ tomb. But the real reason we celebrate Easter is because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Let’s explore what happened on that very first Easter.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

This biblical account will be told in two parts. The poster has three scenes that correspond to three parts of the Easter passage, and you’ll point out the first two scenes as you explore each part of the account. The third scene will be used in the “Weaving Faith Into Life” section.

Start out by pointing to the first section of the “Easter” poster. Then give each child a paper cup with a dark chocolate chip in it. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have kids open to Mark 15:33-39. Tell them they’ll be hearing the sounds of the crucifixion.

Play “A Dark Hour” (track 10 on the CD). Pause the CD after the centurion announces, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Say: **Now put the piece of chocolate into your mouth, and keep it there. You can quietly think about your sins and talk to God about them.** Allow a few minutes for reflection.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was the chocolate different than you expected?**
- **How was that chocolate like the sin we have in our lives?**
- **What was the importance of Jesus dying on the cross?**

Say: **Jesus’ death was very unusual. The sky was very dark. The earth shook. The curtain to the Temple tore from top to bottom. After watching all that happened that day, the Roman soldier was convinced that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus died for our sins. But ► JESUS IS ALIVE today. Let’s see what happened next.**

Easter Part 2: At the Tomb

What You’ll Do

Point out the second section of the “Easter” poster.

Say: **After the Sabbath some of the women brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body. Let’s listen as Mary Magdalene describes what happened that day.**

Play “Mary Magdalene” (track 11 on the CD).

Give kids each a pen and a piece of paper, and set out markers to share. Have kids write praises and decorate their sheets of paper, thanking Jesus for being alive. When they’re finished, lightly spray each child’s paper with the perfume.

Give each child a piece of netting and a 6-inch piece of ribbon. Have kids fold up their praise papers, put them into the netting, and tie the netting up into a bag.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some other ways we can thank Jesus for being alive?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus is alive?**

Say: **When the women reached the tomb, they saw something they never expected: an empty tomb. Jesus had come back to life! We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. He had died for our sins. Now he was reunited with**



Easter Part 2: At the Tomb Supplies

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- CD player
 - scissors
 - paper
 - pens
 - markers
 - perfume or air freshener
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “Mary Magdalene” (track 11)
 - “Easter” poster
 - netting
 - ribbon

Easter Part 2: At the Tomb Easy Prep

Cut the ribbon into 6-inch lengths.

Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.



Jesus or the World? Supplies

Bible
poster board
balloon
masking tape
pin (or toothpick)
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

Jesus or the World? Easy Prep

Cut out a large cross from the poster board. Cover the cross completely with masking tape. Blow up a balloon and cover it completely with one layer of masking tape.

God the Father. Mary Magdalene and the others had taken spices to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body, but they didn't need them because Jesus had risen! You can take this bag home with you as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us—and that he's alive today!

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Jesus or the World?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the “Jesus Rises From the Dead” picture on the Bible Timeline. Ask a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse, John 11:25: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’ ”

Say: **We can believe in Jesus and stick to him, or we can believe in the world and the things it has to offer us.**

Hold up the cross and the balloon, both covered in masking tape.

Ask:

- **What happens when we put our trust and hope in the things the world has to offer us?**
- **What happens when we put our trust and hope in Jesus?**
- **Why can we put our trust and hope in Jesus?**

Ask kids to share some of the pressures they face each day. For example, they might mention problems in school, arguments with their friends, or not agreeing with their parents about something. For each pressure a child shares, have that person come up and poke the pin or toothpick through the masking tape into the balloon. The balloon will slowly deflate and crumple.

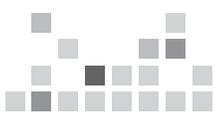
Then ask kids to come up, pray about a pressure, and then poke the pin or toothpick through the masking tape into the cross. The cross will keep its shape.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways the world can crumple around us?**
- **What are some things the cross represents to us?**
- **What are some of the pressures you can give to Jesus?**
- **How does knowing that Jesus died and came back to life help you trust him with those pressures?**



Say: **When the pressures of the world hit us and we put our hope in the world and the temporary pleasures it has to offer, we will be disappointed. The life we have in the world and its temporary pleasures will deflate and leave us crumpled and empty. However, if our hope is in Jesus and his resurrection, we won't be let down, because ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Celebration Mural

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Read the Key Verse aloud again: **"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' "** (John 11:25).

Say: **Think about the images this verse makes you think of. What does it look like for Jesus to be the resurrection and the life? Do you see him walking out of the tomb in glory? Do you think of beautiful living things? Do you see Jesus opening his arms to hug you?**

Direct kids to the papers you hung before the lesson. Explain that they will be using the various art supplies to make a gallery of artwork with the images they thought of. Ask kids to create their artwork based on what images the Key Verse brings to mind, such as a cross, the conquering of all sins, an open door to heaven, and so on. After kids have finished creating their gallery, have them write the Key Verse next to their artwork.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did you determine what to draw or paint?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?**
- **How can you choose to live with Jesus today?**

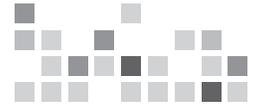
Say: **We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Because he lives, we're able to live forever with him. That's a great reason to celebrate!**

The Gate to God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out the third scene on the "Easter" poster.

Say: **When the tomb was opened and Jesus had risen, Jesus opened the way for us to be reunited with God. Jesus opened the gate, and now he welcomes us with open arms. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can be thankful. He has provided a way for us to be with God.**



Celebration Mural Supplies

- Bibles
- 11 x 17 sheets of paper tape
- painting or drawing supplies, such as sidewalk chalk, crayons, markers, or paint
- paintbrushes

Celebration Mural Easy Prep

Hang the paper throughout the room to create a sort of gallery. You'll need 1 sheet of paper per child. Set out art supplies.

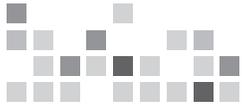
The Gate to God Supplies

- Bible Truth Sleuth pens
- Teacher Pack**
- "Easter" poster

The Gate to God Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "My Relationship With Jesus" activity. Ask kids to find a partner and share three things they know about their relationship with Jesus. For example, kids could share about how they spend time with Jesus, how Jesus has changed them, and what they'd like to thank Jesus for.

When pairs have shared, have them write those things on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What difference does it make to your relationship with Jesus to know that he's alive?
- What things on your list would be different if Jesus had stayed in the tomb? Explain.

Say: **We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. That means that we can now have a relationship with Jesus, and we can invite others into a relationship with him, too.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► JESUS IS ALIVE and ways we can grow in our relationship with Jesus.**

Have kids find the Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **If you're not sure if you believe in Jesus, write down what you do believe about Jesus and questions you have about him. Then talk to a Christian adult about your questions.**
- **If you do believe Jesus loves you and died for you, write a song or poem telling him why he's so important to you.**
- **Tell someone about your relationship with Jesus. You'll grow closer to Jesus at the same time as you give someone else an opportunity to know about him!**

Be sure to commit to a Daily Challenge as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **When Jesus was on the cross, it was a dark day. But we have hope, because
▶ JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenge they chose and what they learned about Jesus' resurrection. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Invite kids to pray to follow Jesus or to recommit their lives to following him.



