



Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8

The concept of death can be confusing for young children. They see cartoon characters die and then come back to life. And although they know cartoons don't depict real life, they don't understand the permanence of death. Use this lesson to help kids understand that Jesus really died and that his resurrection was a real miracle.



► 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 thank Jesus for being 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 Is Alive Again! Name items that are alive and items that aren't alive.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Things That Breathe" poster, "Things That Don't Breathe" poster	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear why Theo has an empty Easter egg.	CD player, Theo puppet, string, empty plastic Easter egg Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the egg to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Alive and Well Wrap figures in "cloth" before putting them in cardboard "tombs."	Bible, shoe box with lid, 4 connected toilet paper squares per child, craft sticks Teacher Pack: "Sad, Mad, Glad Faces and Jesus Figure" 	Cut out the Jesus figure from the page. Ask an adult leader to be prepared to remove the Jesus figure and craft sticks at the appropriate time.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



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></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Roll Away the Stone</p> <p>Add angels and “rolling stones” to pictures of Jesus’ tomb, and then tell what happened when Jesus came back to life.</p>	My Bible Hugs, glue, safety scissors, hole punch, 1 paper fastener per child, 1 copy for every 4 children of the “Angel” page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them. Cut out the circle fourths on the “Angel” page so each child has 1/4 circle.
	<p>Center 2: The Empty Tomb Snack</p> <p>Dramatize Jesus’ resurrection using food items.</p>	2 teddy bear-shaped cookies, a 5-ounce paper cup and 1 round cracker per child; napkins; antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Egg-stra Special Surprises</p> <p>Hatch eggs with Christian symbols in them.</p>	plastic eggs; Easter basket; small items that suggest the Easter message, such as pebbles, tissues, small crosses, or candy hearts	
	<p>Center 4: Announcing Angels</p> <p>Make angel wings.</p>	one 11x17 copy per child of the “Angel Wings” handout (at the end of the lesson), scissors, glue sticks, craft feathers, masking tape	Cut out 2 angel wings for each child.
<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>Say a prayer with motions.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Worship God” (track 8), “God’s Not Dead” (track 15)

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 “Worship God” (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



This is the way we worship God, (*clap to the beat of the song through the verse*)

**Worship God,
Worship God.**

**This is the way we worship God.
Let’s worship him today.**

This is the way we worship God, (*bop up and down to the beat of the song through the verse*)

**Worship God,
Worship God.**

**This is the way we worship God.
Let’s worship him today.**

This is the way we worship God, (*wave hands from side to side to the beat of the song through the verse*)

**Worship God,
Worship God.**

**This is the way we worship God.
Let’s worship him today.**

Say: **Today we’ll hear why we worship Jesus—we’ll learn that Jesus died but that**
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE now. Let’s sing a song about that.**

Lead children in singing “God’s Not Dead” (track 15 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.





(Chorus)

God's not dead. No! (punch fist in the air)
 He is alive. (wave hands above head)
 God's not dead. No! (punch fist in the air)
 He is alive. (wave hands above head)
 God's not dead. No! (punch fist in the air)
 He is alive. (wave hands above head)
 I know he's living in me. (touch right hand to heart)

I see him in my hands. (shake hands)
 I see him in my feet. (shake feet)
 I see him in the air. (point up)
 I see him everywhere. (point around the room)
 I see him at the church. (point down)
 I see him on the street. (stomp foot)
 And I know he's living in me. (touch right hand to heart)

No, no, no, no, no, no, no... (shake head "no")
 No, no, no, no, no, no, no. (shake head "no")

(Repeat chorus.)

Say: We can sing that God's not dead because ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's hear about how Jesus came back to life, and what that means to us.

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Jesus Is Alive Again!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means that people who believe in Jesus will live forever. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

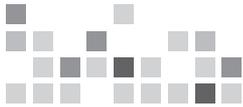
Show the two posters. Say: **Look at these pictures. Help me decide which of these things are alive and breathe and which are not alive and don't breathe.** Let children take turns coming up to a poster, naming an item, and telling whether it's alive and breathing or not alive and not breathing. Each time a child points out an item on a



Jesus Is Alive Again! Supplies

- Bible
- Teacher Pack**
- "Things That Breathe" poster
- "Things That Don't Breathe" poster





poster, lead the kids in acting like that item—either posing for items that aren't alive or doing moving actions for items that are alive.

Say: **We know that if something breathes and grows, it's alive. Our Key Verse says that Jesus came back to life!** Have kids breathe in and out a couple of times, listening to their breath.

Say: **When Jesus died, he stopped breathing. He was no longer alive. But then he came back to life— ► JESUS IS ALIVE! And it's because ► JESUS IS ALIVE that we have the chance to live forever like Jesus. Let's say our Key Verse once more.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain why you know if something is alive.
- Why is it so neat that Jesus wasn't alive and then he came back to life?

Say: **Today we'll hear how Jesus came back to life—and how he'll live forever. We're thankful that ► JESUS IS ALIVE because when we believe in him, we can live forever, too!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

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 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What's that you brought with you?

Theo: It's an Easter egg.

Teacher: What do you have in it?

Theo: It's empty. I ate all the candy in it.

(Pause for a minute to allow all the children to see the empty Easter egg.)

Teacher: I hope you didn't eat too much candy, Theo.

Theo: It was just a couple of pieces. But I'm sad it's empty now.

Teacher: Theo, that reminds me of what we're learning about in the Bible today.

Theo: What's that?

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
empty plastic Easter
egg

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the egg to Theo's
paw.





Teacher: Some of Jesus’ friends were sad when they found out Jesus’ tomb was empty. But then they found out why and they weren’t sad anymore.

Theo: Why was it empty?

Teacher: Friends, let’s tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► JESUS IS ALIVE.)

Teacher: Jesus’ tomb was empty because Jesus came back to life!

Theo: That sounds interesting. I’d love to stay and hear more, but I should probably go see my parents now.

Teacher: Good idea! Boys and girls, 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:

- Explain whether or not you can understand why Theo was sad about his empty egg.
- Tell about a time you looked for something, but it was all gone.
- Why is it so great that we never have to worry that Jesus is gone?

Say: **Sometimes things run out, like Theo’s candy did. But one thing we can be sure will never run out is God’s love. God loves us so much that he brought Jesus back to life. ► JESUS IS ALIVE—and Jesus will live forever. We can live forever, too, if we believe in Jesus. Let’s hear more about that.**

Bible Time: Alive and Well

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Mark 16:1-8, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Many people loved Jesus, followed him, and listened to him. But not everyone did. Some people hated him so much that they had him killed. He died on the cross, and they put him in a tomb. Today we’ll read about what happened when his friends visited him.**

Show the Jesus figure, and give each child a craft stick. Say: **This is Jesus. You can pretend your craft stick is Jesus.**

Give each child 4 connected toilet paper squares. Say: **When Jesus died on the cross, they took his body down and wrapped it in white cloth.** Demonstrate how to wrap the Jesus figure in the toilet paper, and have kids do the same with their craft sticks.

Open the lid of the shoe box. Say: **They put Jesus’ body in a tomb.** Have kids put their craft sticks in the shoe box. Show all the kids that you are putting the “Jesus Figure” in the box. **Then they closed the opening of the tomb with a huge rock. The rock was**



Bible Time: Alive and Well Supplies

- Bible
- shoe box with lid
- 4 connected toilet paper squares per child
- craft sticks

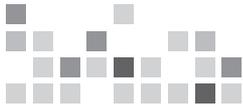
Teacher Pack

“Sad, Mad, Glad Faces and Jesus Figure” page

Bible Time: Alive and Well Easy Prep

Cut out the Jesus figure from the page. Ask an adult leader to be prepared to remove the Jesus figure and craft sticks at the appropriate time.





so big that it took a lot of strength to move it. We'll close our tomb now. Put the lid on the box.

Say: **Two days after they put Jesus' body in the tomb, some women who were Jesus' friends went to Jesus' tomb to take care of his body. They were very sad and walked slowly to the tomb. Let's walk to Jesus' tomb like these women did.**

Lead the children around the room, walking slowly and somberly. Lead the kids away from the shoe box so your adult leader can remove the Jesus figure and craft sticks and put them away where the children won't find them. The Jesus figure can be placed somewhere in the room where children can find it but won't notice it right away. Leave some toilet paper in the box and the lid open.

Lead children back to the tomb, and have them sit in a circle around it. Say: **When the women got to the garden where the tomb was, they were very surprised. The stone had been rolled away.** Show that the lid is off the box. **They looked inside, and Jesus wasn't there!** Pull out the empty toilet paper and show it to the children. **Only the cloth remained.** Pass the box around and let kids look inside to see that the "Jesus Figure" and craft sticks are gone but the "cloth" is still there.

Say: **Then they saw an angel. The angel said, ► "JESUS IS ALIVE! Go tell his friends that Jesus is alive!" So the women ran to tell Jesus' friends, "Jesus is alive. The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!"** Have children tell each other ► **"JESUS IS ALIVE."**

Let children look for and find the "Jesus Figure" your adult leader placed in the room. After children find it, say: **Jesus died, but he came back to life! ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think when the Jesus figures were gone from the "tomb"?**
- **What did you think when you found the "Jesus Figure" and learned ► JESUS IS ALIVE?**
- **Tell about a time you were surprised with something great.**
- **Why is it so great that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?**

Say: **Jesus' friends were so sad that Jesus died, but when they got to the tomb and found out that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, they were surprised and happy. We're happy that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, too! When we believe in him, we can live with him forever.**

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:

Roll Away the Stone

What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 6 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **In the Bible, it says that Jesus died on the cross, but two days later he came back to life. Today ► JESUS IS ALIVE—he'll be alive forever.**



Say: **When the women went to Jesus' tomb to take care of his body, they found the rock had been rolled away.** Have each child cut out the rock and use the paper fastener to attach it to the tomb. You can hole punch the black dot on the rock and on the tomb for kids. Let kids practice rolling away the rock.

Say: **The women saw an angel.** Give each child 1/4 circle. Have each child cut out the head at the bottom of the My Bible Hugs page. Then have each child glue the 1/4 circle next to the cave opening so it looks like the angel's body and glue the angel's head at the top of the 1/4 circle.

Put children in pairs, and let them tell each other what happened, ending with ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's the most surprising part about what you learned today?**
- **Tell about something really neat or surprising that Jesus has done in your life.**
- **What can you tell others about Jesus this week?**

Say: **It's a miracle— ► JESUS IS ALIVE. He's alive today and with us, just like he was alive and with the women who went to the tomb. Jesus does wonderful things in our lives every day, but the most wonderful thing is that when we believe in him, we can live forever with him!**



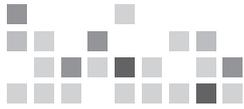
Center 1: Roll Away the Stone Supplies

- My Bible Hugs
- glue
- safety scissors
- hole punch
- 1 paper fastener per child
- 1 copy for every 4 children of the "Angel" page (at the end of the lesson)

Center 1: Roll Away the Stone Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out the circle fourths on the "Angel" page so each child has 1/4 circle.





Center 2: The Empty Tomb Snack Supplies

2 teddy bear-shaped cookies, a 5-ounce paper cup, and 1 round cracker per child
napkins
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Egg-stra Special Surprises Supplies

plastic eggs
Easter basket
small items that suggest the Easter message, such as pebbles, tissues, small crosses, or candy

CENTER 2:

The Empty Tomb Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **It must've been quite a surprise when the women found Jesus' tomb empty. It was really good news, though—because Jesus wasn't dead anymore! ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Let's make some empty tomb snacks.**

Give each child a 5-ounce paper cup to represent the tomb, teddy bear-shaped cookies to represent the angel and the women, and a round cracker for the stone. Have children place their crackers in front of the empty cups. Encourage children to use the cookies to act out what happened and then eat their snacks. Remind them that the tomb is empty and that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can be so excited, just like Jesus' friends were because ► JESUS IS ALIVE! And when we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever. Let's tell all our friends and family what a wonderful thing it is that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

CENTER 3:

Egg-stra Special Surprises

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jesus' friends were surprised when they went to the tomb and it was empty. I have some surprises for you inside these eggs. Let's take a look in each one and see what the surprises could mean.** Open the eggs one by one, and ask the children to guess how each item suggests what they learned about from the Bible today, reminding them that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.** Help the children understand the meaning of each symbol.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like about opening the eggs to find the surprises?**
- **What do you like about celebrating that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?**

Say: **We can celebrate that ► JESUS IS ALIVE every day. We don't need to wait until Easter. Jesus lives with us every day—and he's the best friend we could ever have. This week, remember to celebrate that Jesus is with you always.**





CENTER 4:

Announcing Angels

What You'll Do

Say: **When the women went to Jesus' tomb, an angel told them ► JESUS IS ALIVE. We can be like the angel, too, if we tell other people that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Say: **Let's make some angel wings, and then we'll practice being like the angel.** Give each child two of the angel wings you cut out before class. Encourage children to glue craft feathers onto the wings.

Use masking tape to attach the wings to kids' backs. Encourage children to announce to each other that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.** Lead them by giving them different directions about who to tell or how to say it. You can have them tell someone across the room, someone of the opposite sex, or someone they know really well. You can also have them whisper the news, yell it, or say it in an angelic voice.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to tell everyone that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?**
- **What can you do to be like the angel this week?**
- **Tell about someone you want to tell that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Say: **An angel told the women that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Like the angel, we know that ► JESUS IS ALIVE, and we can tell everyone about how to have a friendship with him. Let's tell the great news this week!**

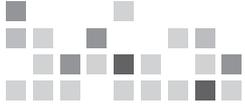
Center 4: Announcing Angels Supplies

- one 11x17 copy per child of the "Angel Wings" handout (at the end of the lesson)
- scissors
- glue sticks
- craft feathers
- masking tape

Center 4: Announcing Angels Easy Prep

Cut out 2 angel wings for each child.





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

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 to celebrate that Jesus is alive this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Invite a friend over, and act out what happened when the women found out that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**
- **As you ride in a car, look for things that are alive and things that are not, and then tell your family why you know ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Say: **If you want to act out what happened, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to look for living and nonliving things, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her 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 ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Remind the children that when the women heard Jesus was alive, their hearts were filled with joy. Invite each child to tell something that makes them joyful or happy. Then have the children repeat each line of this prayer in their most joyful voices.

Pray: **Lord, your tomb is empty,** *(touch thumbs and middle fingers to shape a circle)*

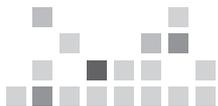
But our hearts are full. *(put hands on heart)*

They're full of joy and happiness *(extend left hand on "joy" and right hand on "happiness")*

Because you are alive! *(lift hands in the air)*

In your name, amen.





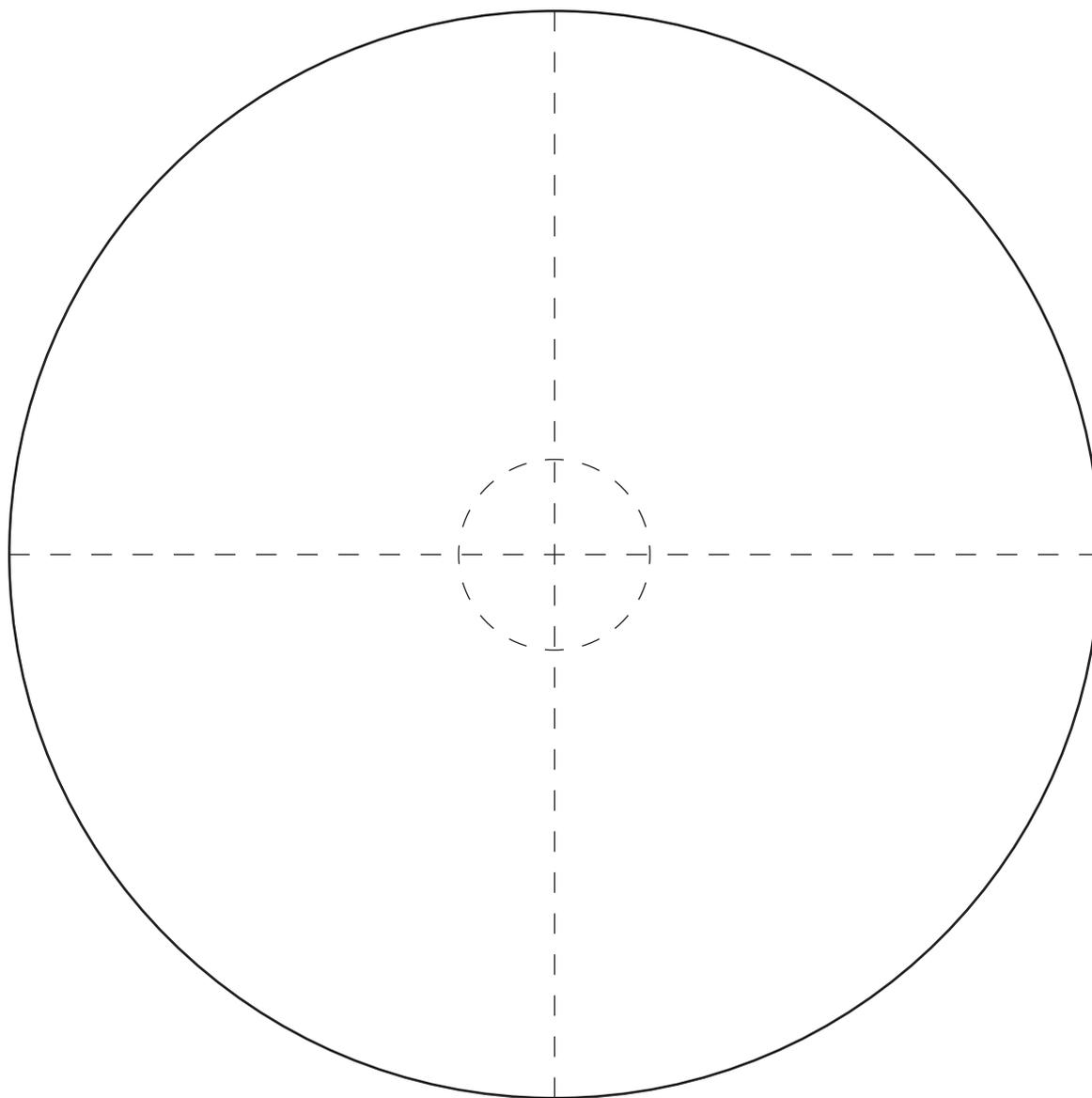
Weaving Faith at Home

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 during 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.

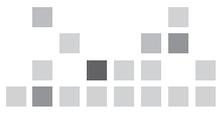


Angel



! OK
■ TO COPY





Angel Wings



OK
TO COPY



