



Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

Most third- and fourth-graders still enjoy the traditional festivities of Easter. They appreciate the candy and Easter egg hunts that often accompany the holiday. However, be sensitive to your students' feelings about the Easter activities you choose. You may find some kids think the holiday festivities are childish and beneath them. Avoid asking third- and fourth-graders to participate in activities that will offend their desire to appear mature.



► Bible Point

Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

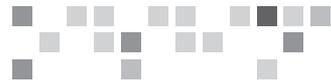
Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate that Jesus is alive.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Do You Believe It? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make up unbelievable stories.	paper, markers	
2 Bible Exploration	Dropcloth <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Wrap each other in crepe paper and break out.	Bible, crepe paper, flashlight Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	
	Vacancy <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create signs that appear when painted.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	They Couldn't Keep Jesus Down! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Use balloons to demonstrate Jesus' resurrection.	cardboard box, 2 identical balloons, masking tape, scissors	Prepare two identical balloons. Blow up one balloon with air, and fill the other balloon with helium. Hide the helium-filled balloon in a cardboard box.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Confess and Believe <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share with each other what they believe about Jesus.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
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.	CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Do You Believe It? Supplies

paper
markers

1 GETTING STARTED

Do You Believe It?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form three groups.

Say: Today we're going to talk about something that seems unbelievable. So, to start, I want each group to come up with some kind of story that's unbelievable. Talk together, and decide on a person, place, or thing, and then tell an unbelievable story about it. When you've finished with your story, you will present it to the rest of the class. You may choose any way you wish to present it. You may act it out, make up a song, draw pictures, or take turns telling different parts of the story.

Give kids five minutes to come up with their stories and presentations. Then have each group present its story to the class. After all groups have made their presentations, have kids sit together as a large group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

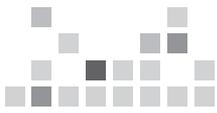
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was unbelievable about these stories?
- What was believable about them?
- What's the most amazing thing you've ever heard of someone doing?
- Do you think that anyone could do something as amazing as rising from the dead? Explain.

Say: The stories we heard today were ones you've made up. But the Bible story we'll talk about today is true. It's about something amazing and miraculous that happened to Jesus. We'll talk about what happened to Jesus and learn that

► **JESUS IS ALIVE.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Dropcloth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point to the “Jesus Is Crucified and Rises From the Dead” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **In Jesus’ day, after a person died, it was the custom to wrap a person’s body in linen and place the body in a tomb. After Jesus died on the cross, his friends and family wrapped his body in linen before they put it in the tomb. They placed Jesus’ body in the tomb and sealed the tomb by placing a stone in front of the entrance.**

Today we’re going to wrap one another in crepe paper and pretend that the crepe paper is linen.

Have kids stand in a circle. Hand one roll of crepe paper to one child. Have that child wrap the torso of the child next to him or her. When the child has finished wrapping, have him or her tear the crepe paper and pass the roll to the next child. The next child will then wrap the torso of the child who just handed them the roll. Then he or she will pass the roll on to the next person. Continue doing this until all kids except the last one have been wrapped in crepe paper. Then you, the teacher, will wrap the last student. When everyone has been wrapped, have kids sit down. Then turn off the lights.

Say: **Without Jesus, we would have no hope after death. Just as your bodies are bound by the “linen” you’re wrapped in, we’re bound by the sins we commit. Jesus died on the cross so we could have forgiveness for our sins. Without that act of love, we could never be freed from our sins. Think about what that would be like.**

Pause for a moment, and have kids sit quietly.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

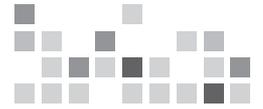
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How would you feel if you could never be freed from your sins?**
- **What do you think it would take to free you?**
- **What would you think of someone who was able to free you?**

Say: **Let’s continue with our Bible story to learn about what exciting thing happened next.**

Open your Bible to John 20:1-2, and read the passage aloud to the kids. Use a flashlight if necessary so you can leave the lights turned off. When you’ve finished reading, turn on the lights.



Dropcloth Supplies

-
- Bible
 - crepe paper
 - flashlight
 - Teacher Pack**
 - Bible Timeline





Say: **Jesus was gone! Go ahead and break out of your linen strips. Fold them, and set them down in front of you.**

Ask:

- How did it feel to break free?
- How do you think Mary felt when she realized Jesus was not in the tomb?

Say: **Let's keep reading to find out what the disciples saw.**

Read John 20:3-10 aloud.

Ask:

- What do you think the disciples thought when they saw the linen in which Jesus' body had been wrapped lying in the tomb?
- Why do you think neither the disciples nor Mary Magdalene understood that Jesus had risen from the dead?
- Is it hard for you to understand? Why or why not?

Say: **Let's take a look at what happened next that helped Mary understand that**
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Vacancy

Vacancy Supplies

Bibles

Bible Truth Sleuth
white crayons
watercolor paints
paintbrushes

Vacancy Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

What You'll Do

Have kids pick up their piles of linen and throw them away. Then have kids form trios, and make sure each group has at least one Bible.

Say: **With your group, read John 10:11-18. Brainstorm ideas for a sign that would have helped Mary understand what was going on. For example, some things that could have been on such a sign might be "Jesus is Alive," "He is not here," or "He has risen."**

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Vacancy" activity. Give each child a white crayon.

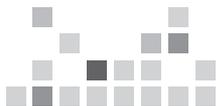
Say: **On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, use the white crayon to write the words of your sign in the sign space provided.**

After kids have finished writing, have each child exchange his or her vacancy sign with a child from another group. Have kids use watercolors to paint the signs they've received from another trio. The white crayon will show through the paint, and the message will appear. When everyone has finished painting, gather kids back together.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.





Ask:

- What does your sign say?
- Why couldn't you read your sign at first?
- What do you think Mary was expecting to see when she went to the tomb?
- Why didn't Mary recognize Jesus at first?

Have kids return the signs to the original owners to take home.

Say: **The good news of Easter is that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Now let's take a closer look at the miraculous thing that happened to Jesus.**

They Couldn't Keep Jesus Down!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold up the air-filled balloon.

Say: **After Jesus died on the cross, he was wrapped in linen and buried in a tomb. Let's pretend this balloon represents Jesus' body and that we're going to wrap it in linen.**

Give kids each some strips of masking tape, and have them wrap the air-filled balloon to simulate wrapping Jesus' body in linen. Be sure to completely cover the balloon. Then place the wrapped, air-filled balloon in the cardboard box, being careful not to release the helium balloon or let the kids see it. Have a small pair of scissors handy to discreetly cut the tied-off end of the air-filled balloon so that it will deflate. If you try to poke a hole in the balloon, it will not deflate fast enough. If possible, have an adult volunteer come in to help you with this activity.

Say: **Jesus' friends and followers must have been very sad the day they put his body in the tomb. But Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would!**

Release the helium-filled balloon from the box.

Ask:

- Why couldn't the grave keep a hold on Jesus?

Reach into the box, pull out the deflated balloon, and hold it up so kids can see it. If the balloon is still somewhat inflated, gently squeeze it before pulling it out of the box. You may want to experiment with this before class by blowing up a balloon, covering it with masking tape, and cutting off the tied end. Then wait to see how long it takes your balloon to deflate. Practice squeezing it as you place it in the box to help the activity go smoothly. (As the air escapes the balloon, it will make a very slight noise, but it shouldn't be noticeable if you talk while you deflate the balloon.)

Say: **All that was left in the tomb was the linen Jesus' body was wrapped in. Jesus was gone! He had risen, just as he said he would.**



They Couldn't Keep Jesus Down! Supplies

- cardboard box
- 2 identical balloons
- masking tape
- scissors

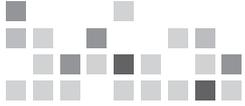
They Couldn't Keep Jesus Down! Easy Prep

Prepare two identical balloons. Blow up one balloon with air, and fill the other balloon with helium. Hide the helium-filled balloon in a cardboard box.

! BALLOON WARNING

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





Confess and Believe Supplies

Bibles
CD player
copies of the lyrics (at
the end of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "Confess With Your
Mouth" (Romans 10:9)
(track 9)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's the good news of Easter?
- What does Easter mean to people who believe in Jesus?

Say: **Jesus' resurrection proved he could conquer death and allows us to live with him forever in heaven. Let's find out what the Bible tells us to do to make that possible.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Confess and Believe

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids open their Bibles to Romans 10:9.

Say: **We'll find our Key Verse for today in Romans 10:9. Let's read it together: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Let's sing that verse to learn it.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) (track 9), encouraging kids to sing along.

 **For if you confess,
Confess with your mouth
That Jesus is Lord,
If you believe,
Believe in your heart
That God raised him from the dead...**
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

**You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!**

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

**Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!**

"Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- According to this verse, what do we need to do to be saved?
- What does it mean to “confess with your mouth”?
- What does it mean to “believe in your heart”?

Have kids find partners and tell each other what they believe about Jesus by answering the following questions:

Ask:

- Do you believe in your heart that Jesus rose from the dead? Why or why not?
- What can you say, or confess, with your mouth about Jesus that shows you believe Jesus is Lord?



4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to remind us that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

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

- Create a piece of artwork that reflects that Jesus is alive.
- Tell a friend or family member about something amazing God has done for you.
- Sing a song to God each day, and praise him for raising Jesus from the dead.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

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: ► **JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's celebrate by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

CD player
copies of the lyrics (at
the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Let's Go!"
(Ephesians 2:10) (track
16)

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges 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.

Close by singing "Let's Go!" (Ephesians 2:10) (track 16) as a celebration prayer.

 **We are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus
To do good works, which
God prepared in advance for us to do.**
(Repeat.)

**Let's go! There's work to do.
Let's go! That means me and you.
God calls us, so...let's go!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Let's go! There's work to do.
Let's go! That means me and you.
God calls us, so...
Let's go!
Let's go!
Let's go!**





Lyrics ■■■■

Confess With Your Mouth (Romans 10:9)

For if you confess,
Confess with your mouth
That Jesus is Lord,
If you believe,
Believe in your heart
That God raised him from the dead...
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

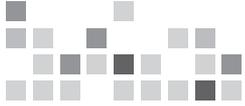
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!

“Confess With Your Mouth” (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



OK
TO COPY





Lyrics ■■■■

Let's Go! (Ephesians 2:10)

We are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus
To do good works, which
God prepared in advance for us to do.
(Repeat.)

Let's go! There's work to do.
Let's go! That means me and you.
God calls us, so...let's go!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Let's go! There's work to do.
Let's go! That means me and you.
God calls us, so...
Let's go!
Let's go!
Let's go!

"Let's Go!" (Ephesians 2:10) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

! **OK**
■ TO COPY

