



# Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

Preschoolers will naturally feel the joy of Jesus being alive. Learning that he died can be disturbing for them at first, but as they learn that he rose from the dead and is alive forever, their sadness will turn to excitement and joy. This lesson may be their first introduction to the fact that Jesus is alive today!



### ► Bible Point


Jesus is alive.

### Key Verse

“Christ died for us”  
(Romans 5:8).



### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will celebrate that Jesus is alive.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, whistle	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Alive Today!</b> Play a game to learn the Key Verse.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear why Theo is late.	CD player, Theo puppet, plastic Easter egg, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tape a plastic Easter egg to Theo’s paw.
	<b>Bible Time: He’s Alive!</b> Learn that Jesus was in a tomb and that he came back to life.	Bible, plastic Easter egg from the “Puppy Pointers” activity <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Jesus” figure, “Mary Sees Jesus” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Hide one Jesus figure inside your Bible.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Jesus Appears</b> Create an invisible drawing of Jesus, and then make him appear.</p>	My Bible Hugs, newspaper, white crayons, watercolors, paintbrushes, cups of water, smocks	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cover a table with newspaper, and set out supplies.
	<p><b>Center 2: Empty Cave Snacks</b> Make an empty "cave."</p>	pita bread, teddy bear crackers, napkins	
	<p><b>Center 3: Play-Clay Creations</b> Create artwork from modeling dough.</p>	modeling dough <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Mary Sees Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
	<p><b>Center 4: Easter Place Mats</b> Make place mats to use in celebrating Jesus' resurrection.</p>	1 sheet of construction paper per child, stickers, crayons	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Thank God for giving us Jesus and for bringing him back to life.</p>	plastic Easter egg from the "Bible Time" activity <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jesus" figure	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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: “We Welcome You”  
(track 9), “Change Me”  
(track 10)

whistle

# 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 whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing “We Welcome You” (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We welcome you to church today,** *(Shake hands with someone.)*  
**Church today, church today.** *(Nod head.)*  
**We welcome you to church today.** *(Shake hands with someone.)*  
**We’re so glad you’ve come.** *(Smile and point to corners of mouth.)*  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **In our lesson today, we’ll learn that ► JESUS IS ALIVE today! Let’s celebrate by singing.**

Lead children in singing “Change Me” (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of “Angels Watching Over Me.” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Jesus, change me.** *(Point up, then to self.)*  
**Help me do what you would do.** *(Clasp hands.)*  
**Jesus, change me.** *(Point up, then to self.)*  
**Help me do what you would do.** *(Clasp hands.)*  
**Jesus, change me.** *(Point up, then to self.)*  
**Help me love as you would love.** *(Hug self.)*  
**Jesus, change me.** *(Point up, then to self.)*  
**Help me love as you would love.** *(Hug self.)*  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*





## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Alive Today!

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key verse from the Bible is Romans 5:8. This verse says, "Christ died for us." This means that Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for the wrong things we do. The good news is that Jesus came back to life. Jesus is alive! Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Christ died for us."**

Have children form trios. Have two of the children face each other and clasp hands (as if playing "London Bridge"). Have the third child stand in the middle of their hands as if he or she has been captured. Have all the children softly say together, "Christ died for us." Then have those clasping hands lift their hands to release the captured child as everyone shouts, **"▶ JESUS IS ALIVE!"** Play several times so that each child has a turn at both roles.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you feel when you were captured and were thinking about Jesus dying?
- How did you feel when you were set free and could shout that Jesus is alive?

Say: **▶ JESUS IS ALIVE, and that means we can be free from things that are wrong.**

## 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 2 on the CD), but keep Theo hidden.



#### Alive Today! Supplies

Bible

#### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
plastic Easter egg  
tape  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 2)

#### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape a plastic Easter egg to Theo's paw.





**Teacher:** I told Theo to come out when he heard the music. Theo, where are you? Friends, I'll count to three, and then I want you to help me call for Theo. One, two, three...Theo!

*(Have children call for Theo. Then have Theo appear with an Easter egg attached to his paw.)*

**Theo:** Here I am! I was out hunting for Easter eggs.

**Teacher:** I'm glad you're here. I didn't know where you were. That reminds me of the Bible story we're going to hear today. A woman couldn't find Jesus just as we couldn't find you. Theo, may I borrow your Easter egg for our Bible story?

**Theo:** Sure! It's empty. I already ate the candy that was in it.

**Teacher:** That's okay. Thank you!

*(Take egg from Theo's paw.)*

**Teacher:** Goodbye, Theo! We'll see you later.

Encourage kids to wave or say goodbye to Theo, and then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you feel when we couldn't find Theo?
- When have you looked for something that you couldn't find?

Say: **Today in our Bible story, we'll learn about a woman who couldn't find Jesus just as we couldn't find Theo. Let's find out what happened.**

## Bible Time: He's Alive!

### Bible Time: He's Alive! Supplies

Bible  
plastic Easter egg from  
the "Puppy Pointers"  
activity

#### Teacher Pack

"Jesus" figure  
"Mary Sees Jesus"  
poster (from the Big  
Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: He's Alive! Easy Prep

Hide one Jesus figure  
inside your Bible.

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 20:1-18, and show the children the words.

Say: **Last week we learned that Jesus died for us. Today's Bible story tells us that**  
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Give the plastic Easter egg to a child to hold. Show children the Jesus figure that's not hidden in your Bible.

Say: **After Jesus died, his body was placed into a cave called a tomb. We can pretend that this egg is the tomb Jesus was placed in.** Roll and fold the Jesus figure so that it will fit inside the plastic Easter egg. Ask the child holding the egg to open it, and place the Jesus figure inside.

**A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb. Close the egg. Three days after Jesus died, Mary, one of Jesus' friends, went to the tomb early in the morning.**





Have the children pretend to be Mary and walk around the room once until they reach the “tomb” again. While children are walking, remove the folded Jesus figure from the egg and set it aside or hide it. Set the opened egg on the floor.

Say: **When Mary got to the tomb, she saw the stone rolled away. When Mary peeked inside, what do you think she saw? Jesus wasn't there! The tomb was empty!**

**Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends that Jesus was gone. Then she went back to the tomb.** Have the children pretend to be Mary again and walk around the room. As children are walking, place the second Jesus figure beside the “tomb.”

**Later when Mary was back at the tomb, she saw a man. Who do you think it was?** Pause for children to respond, and then show children the poster. **Mary saw Jesus! He wasn't dead—he was alive! God had brought Jesus to life again. And do you know what? Jesus is alive today! When we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the fact that ► JESUS IS ALIVE and living in heaven.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Mary felt when she saw Jesus alive?
- What do you want to tell others about Jesus?

Say: **Mary was so happy! Jesus had died, but now Jesus was alive! Mary wanted to tell everyone the good news. We, too, can tell others the good news that ► JESUS IS 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: Jesus Appears

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children first use a white crayon or wax candle to connect the dashes to create the picture of Jesus on the My Bible Hugs page. Then show children how to brush paint



#### Center 1: Jesus Appears Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
newspaper  
white crayons  
watercolors  
paintbrushes  
cups of water  
smocks

#### Center 1: Jesus Appears Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cover a table with newspaper, and set out supplies.





### Center 2: Empty Cave Snacks

Supplies  
pita bread  
teddy bear crackers  
napkins

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: Play-Clay Creations

Supplies  
modeling dough  
**Teacher Pack**  
“Mary Sees Jesus”  
poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

over the picture of Jesus. Jesus will appear as white lines shining through the paint.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- Who appeared at the tomb with Mary? Who appeared on your page when you painted?
- Why is it exciting that Jesus is alive?

Say: **Just as Jesus appeared in your pictures, Jesus appeared to Mary outside the tomb. When Mary found Jesus, she was very happy! She was so glad that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! We can be glad, too, because Jesus is alive today!**

### ■ CENTER 2:

## Empty Cave Snacks

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Give each child a napkin, a half piece of pita (or pocket) bread, and several teddy bear crackers. Have children place the teddy bears inside the pita bread just as Jesus was placed inside the tomb. Then have children remove the teddy bears to make a tomb as empty as Jesus' tomb. Remind children that Jesus' tomb was empty because Jesus is alive. Allow children to eat their bread and crackers.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Mary feel when she saw that Jesus was alive?
- What good news can you tell others on Easter?

Say: **Jesus' tomb was empty because ► JESUS IS ALIVE! That's great news! Let's thank God for bringing Jesus to life and for providing our snack.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

### ■ CENTER 3:

## Play-Clay Creations

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place the “Mary Sees Jesus” poster on a low table. Let children use modeling dough to make additions to the picture, such as trees, flowers, rocks, and animals. As children complete their creations, allow them to place their additions on the poster and leave them there for others to see.







### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Mary feel when she saw Jesus?
- Why does Easter make you smile?

Say: **On Easter, we celebrate the fact that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! It's a very happy time filled with lots of smiles!**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## Easter Place Mats

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Make stickers and crayons available. Let children create place mats that celebrate Easter and the fact that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. Encourage children to use these as they eat dinner later in the day and to tell their families what they learned about Jesus today.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How can we celebrate that Jesus is alive?
- Who can you show your place mat to and tell that Jesus is alive?

Say: **Easter is a day to celebrate and show how happy we are that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## 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.



### Center 4: Easter Place Mats Supplies

- 1 sheet of construction paper per child
- stickers
- crayons

### Daily Challenges Supplies

- My Bible Hugs
- crayons





### Action Prayer Supplies

plastic Easter egg  
from the “Bible Time”  
activity

**Teacher Pack**  
“Jesus” figure

## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that Jesus is alive this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Sing a worship song to God, thanking him for Jesus.**
- **Keep a stone in your pocket. Each time you reach into your pocket, remember the stone that covered Jesus’ tomb. Jesus is alive!**

Say: **If you want to sing, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to keep a stone in your pocket, 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

Gather the children in a circle. As you say this prayer, hold up the Jesus figure from the Teacher Pack and the plastic Easter egg at the appropriate times. Prompt the children to say the italicized words with you.

Say: **Thank you, God, for giving us *Jesus*** (Jesus figure). **Thank you for raising Jesus out of the *tomb*** (plastic egg). **Thank you that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. In Jesus’ 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](http://group.com/digital).

