

3rd & 4th Grade

THE RESURRECTION

April 9, 2023

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Alive!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24

GOD'S BIG STORY: Three days after Jesus' death, God raises Him from the dead. Jesus is no longer dead! He is alive!

WORD OF WONDER: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: Have you ever had something happen to you that you didn't expect? Tell about it.
- Curiosity Questions
- Multisensory Activity: Alive or Not Alive?
- Declaring God's Wonder



FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger Kids and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Worship Celebration
- Blessing Your Kids

Invitation

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Alive!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Growing up in Los Angeles, my family had a tradition of taking long, beautiful drives up and down the coast. And back in the days when we didn't have tablets or TVs in the car, I would spend most of my time talking to God as I stared at the vastness of creation outside the window. In the moments when the sun would shine through the clouds and onto my face, I would imagine God holding me and letting me know how much He loved me. I knew, even at that young age, that the living God of the universe was with me.

Read Luke 24:1–12. What do you notice that you've never noticed before? If you had been with the women at the tomb, what would have surprised you most about that morning?

The greatest difference between many other religions and Christianity is Jesus Christ—the *living* God—crucified, resurrected, ascended into Heaven, and returning to earth someday. Without Jesus, and without His resurrection, there is no hope: we would be worshiping a mere, good human. But because God rose Jesus from the dead and He is alive, we can walk with heads and hands held high—we worship a living God! And through the Holy Spirit, that living God lives in us.

Jesus—the *living* God—is with you and in you. What questions do you have for Him today? What words of praise and thanksgiving are on your heart? Tell Him!

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

God's big story reaches its high point when God raises Jesus from the dead—He is risen! Jesus' resurrection is discovered and proclaimed by women, a great honor in a culture that often undervalued women. They proclaim the truth with joy!

WHAT?

Jesus told His disciples He would die and rise again. They wanted Him to be a conquering king who would defeat Rome and restore Israel to power. But Jesus' victory was bigger and better—it brought salvation to the world!

WHERE?

Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea in a tomb near the site of the crucifixion. Joseph was accompanied by Nicodemus, the same man who had come to Jesus to hear about how God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son.

WHEN?

Jesus is risen on a Sunday morning, the third day after He died. This would have fallen on the Festival of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9–13). Jesus is the “first fruits” of those who will be resurrected, a further reminder of the hope we have!

WHY?

Jesus fulfilled God's promises by dying for our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead, proving that His sacrifice was sufficient and that He is God. Jesus is now exalted to the highest place, and in time, all will acknowledge that He is Lord (Philippians 2:9–11)!

Large or Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Resurrection Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display The Resurrection Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: "Have you ever had something happen to you that you didn't expect? Tell about it." Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

Have you ever had something happen to you that you didn't expect? Tell about it.

CREATED BY
NEW

As kids arrive ...

Greet kids with a big smile and silly handshake. Show kids the Welcome Question and have them share their answers with three friends. Share your answer with kids too. Assist younger kids by reading the question to them or have an older kid help them read the question.

At your start time ...

Gather kids together and, to get their attention, do a series of clap patterns that kids can mimic. Ask several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **Have you ever had something happen to you that you didn't expect? Tell about it.** Continue doing more difficult claps after each answer and have kids mimic the pattern.

In God's big story today, we'll talk about something that happened after Jesus died that those around Him did not expect. But first, it's time to be curious.

Curiosity Questions

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious ...” between each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I’m curious ...

- **When something unexpected happens, who do you want to tell first?**
- **When something unexpected happens, is it hard to keep it a secret? Why or why not?**
- **How would you react if you saw something that was once dead come back to life?**

Multisensory Activity: Alive or Not Alive?

SUPPLIES: plastic bug, rock, book, spoon, live insect (in a clear container with air holes), house plant, worm(s) (in a clear container), flower, table, black tablecloth, pens (1 per kid), disinfecting hand wipes (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Alive or Not Alive? Slide, Alive or Not Alive? Checklist (1 per kid), The Resurrection Wonder Truth Slide

Before kids arrive, gather supplies and display them on a table. Cover the table and supplies with a black tablecloth until it’s time to start the activity. Give each kid an Alive or Not Alive? Checklist and pen.

When dealing with living creatures, be attuned to modeling responsible handling and storage. Be sure the live (non-stinging) insect is stored safely and humanely in a clear container with air holes. After the lesson, return the insect to the outdoors. Depending on your setting and group dynamics, you can keep the worm(s) in a clear container throughout the activity, or you can allow kids to gently touch the worm(s). If you allow kids to touch the worm(s), give each kid a disinfecting hand wipe afterward.



The slide is titled "Alive or Not Alive?" and features a magnifying glass graphic over a checklist. The checklist has three columns: "OBJECT", "ALIVE", and "NOT ALIVE". The objects listed are plastic insect, rock, book, spoon, insect, house plant, worm, and flower. Each object has a checkbox in the "ALIVE" column and a checkbox in the "NOT ALIVE" column. At the bottom left, it says "Wonder Ink" and at the bottom right, it says "LESSON 4 ALIVE OR NOT ALIVE? CHECKLIST CUMMINS" with a small logo.

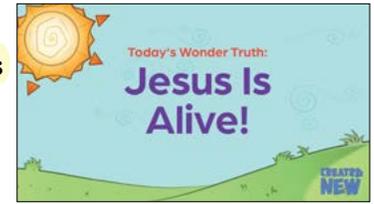
Leader Tip: Consider putting on a lab coat and safety goggles as you introduce this activity. Help make the activity come to life by playing the part of a scientist doing an experiment.



Show the Alive or Not Alive? Slide. **I want you to pretend you are a scientist. There is a table full of items for you to observe. You will need to determine if each item is alive or not alive. You can use your eyes, nose, or hands to help. There are some magnifying glasses on the table if you want to look more closely! Once you’ve observed and made your decision, mark your checklist.** Allow time for kids to make their selections and return to their seats. If you have a large group of kids, consider having them come to the table in groups. When they’ve all finished marking their checklists, talk to the entire group about each item and the choices they made. Let kids explain their choices.

What makes something alive? Allow kids to respond. **Do you think any of the objects that are not alive could come to life right now?** Allow kids to respond. **If that happened, how would you react?**

Display The Resurrection Wonder Truth Slide. **Today we're going to see something that happened to Jesus that took everyone by surprise! Jesus was put to death on a cross and three days later, He came back to life, and at that point, everything changed! Today's Wonder Truth is "Jesus is alive!"**



Make It Inclusive! This is a fantastic activity to do with kids who may have learning differences or physical disabilities. They will love to touch and smell the objects!

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Resurrection Declaration Slide

Display The Resurrection Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

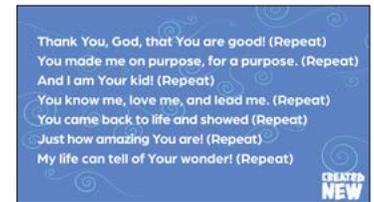
And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You came back to life and showed (Kids repeat.)

Just how amazing you are! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide

Divide your group into smaller teams and ask each team to sit in a circle. Have kids look up the verse in the Bible and, after finding it, read it aloud together two times. Display the Word of Wonder Slide.



Encourage each small group to work together to come up with an original song, rap, or cheer for the verse—complete with dance moves or motions. When teams are ready, allow them to show off their skills and share what they came up with.

Word of Wonder

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)

Questions: Younger Kids

- How long was Jesus in the tomb?
- Who found the tomb empty?
- Why was this moment shocking to anyone who saw it or heard about it?
- What would you have said if you had been sent to tell everyone that Jesus is alive?
- How would you react if you were one of the disciples and Jesus appeared after He had been dead for three days?
- Why are Jesus' death and resurrection so important for you? Your friends? The world?

God raised Jesus from the dead, showing just how powerful He is! Jesus has power even over death. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask kids to share their thanks to Jesus for what He did on the cross and for coming back to life. Those who would like to can share their prayers and thanks to God out loud, one at a time in one-sentence prayers.

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Responding in Worship: Worship Celebration

SUPPLIES: ribbon wands, handheld instruments, kazoos (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Responding in Worship Slide, "He Is Alive" from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Gather kids together. Display the Responding in Worship Slide.



In God's big story today, we learned that Jesus died and rose again.

That isn't an ordinary thing that just happens. The only way this could take place was by the incredible power of God. God raised Jesus to life, showing how powerful He is! Jesus would not allow anything to stop His love for us, not even death. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God was making the world right again. He gave every person the opportunity to worship a God who defeated death and is alive! He did this so we can walk with Him every day of our lives. Isn't that incredible?

What would it look like to live in the freedom and love of our living God throughout your entire life? What if you allowed Jesus' resurrection to impact who you are, to change you? What if you celebrated Jesus' resurrection every single day by shining the truth to the rest of the world that Jesus is alive? If we did that, it could change everything!

Give kids time to respond in worship by playing the song "He Is Alive" from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Hand kids ribbon wands, handheld instruments, and (optional) kazoos to use during worship, and create a celebration experience kids will remember as they celebrate Christ's resurrection!

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to sing at the top of their lungs as they worship. Giving kids objects to use during worship helps create an atmosphere of joy and excitement and gives kids another way to express their praise to God!

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Resurrection Blessing Slide

After your time of worship, speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each kid's name into the blessing. Display The Resurrection Blessing Slide.

Blessing: Jesus is alive! May you shout it wherever you are. May you live it out this week. May you remember that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive in you! Jesus is alive, and He loves you!

