Pre-K & Kinder

LESSON 4

**THE RESURRECTION**

**EASTER SUNDAY – April 9, 2023**

LESSON **AT A GLANCE**

**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:** Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

**CURIOSITY 15–20 minutes**

Hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

* Play Stations:
	+ Easter Egg Sensory Bin

* + Which Is Heavier?
	+ Resurrection Coloring Sheet
* Curiosity Activity: Dead or Alive?
* Declaring God’s Wonder

**BELIEF 20 minutes**

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

* Prayer of Invitation
* God’s Big Story: Jesus Is Alive!
* Word of Wonder: 2 Corinthians 5:17

**FAITH 15–20 minutes**

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God’s story and how it connects to their own.

* Circle Time: Questions in Eggs
* Craft: Creating Crosses
* Game: Jesus Is Alive Circle Chase

**IDENTITY 15–20 minutes**

An interactive 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.

* Worship Response: Dancing
* Prayer and Blessing
* Closing Game: Where’s the Cross?

**FOR LE ADERS**

**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:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Growing up in Los Angeles, my family had the privilege of taking long drives up and down the beautiful coast. Back in the days when we didn’t have tablets or TVs in the cars, I would spend most of my time talking to God as I stared at the vast creation outside the window. And 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 God of the universe was with me. I knew the God of the universe is alive.

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 as 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!

**FOR LE ADERS**

 **THE RESURRECTION**

**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. But 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)!

**Pre-K & Kinder**

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


# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is Alive!

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Play Stations**

**SUPPLIES:** plastic bin, dried beans, plastic Easter eggs, heart cutouts; toy musical instruments (or make your own using pots and pans and wooden spoons or plastic Easter egg shakers filled with dried beans); coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we’re getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we’ll be learning about today?**

**Play Station: Easter Egg Sensory Bin**

**Set-up:** Fill a bin with dry beans and mix in the heart cutouts.

**Play:** Let the kids fill the plastic eggs with beans, shake them, and then empty them. See if they can hide a heart inside one of the eggs. Ask what they hear when they shake a filled egg and an empty egg.

**Play Station: Music Praise**

**Set-up:** Set out toy musical instruments (or make your own using pots and pans and wooden spoons or plastic Easter egg shakers filled with dried beans).

**Play:** Let the kids play with the instruments and make their own music as a way to celebrate Jesus and praise God for Jesus.

**Play Station: Resurrection Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Set out the Resurrection Coloring Sheet and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids could also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a cross or anything that reminds them of Easter.

**Curiosity Activity: Dead or Alive?**

**SUPPLIES:** plastic bug, plastic Easter egg, a real flower, a wilted (dead) flower, rock, magnifying glasses for kids to use (optional), black tablecloth (optional), safety goggles (optional), lab coat (optional)

Before kids arrive, gather supplies, and display them on a table. Place magnifying glasses on the table (optional). Cover the table with a black tablecloth (optional).

## In this activity, you can pretend you are a scientist. I have items for you to observe—that means to look at. I’ll hold one up at a time. We’ll need to decide if each item is dead or alive. You can use your eyes, nose, or hands to help. When we say that something is alive, it means that it is a

**growing thing that will continue to be able to live.** Hold up one object at a time and see if you can get the kids to decide as a group.

## Do you think any of the dead objects can come to life right now? Allow kids to respond. If that happened, what would you say or do?

**Today, we’re going to hear about something Jesus did that took everyone by surprise! Jesus came back to life, and everything changed! Today’s Wonder Truth is, “Jesus Is Alive!”**

**Declaring God’s Wonder**

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Early Childhood Declaration Video or Slide

**PLAY the Declaration video so you and the kids will get an idea how this goes; then put up the Declaration Slide picture on the screen so you’ll have the words—encourage the kids to do the motions and repeat after you.**


## Let’s say these words together.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you’re following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I’m a wonder, this is true.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating (“praise hands”).

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.**


# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is Alive!

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Prayer of Invitation**

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:

## God, You are amazing! We can’t wait to hear Your Word today and celebrate Jesus’ resurrection! We invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us. Help us know Your love even more. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**God’s Big Story: Jesus Is Alive!**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God’s Big Story Video

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found in the book of Luke.

## Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they’re about to hear is part of God’s big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** *(Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)*

**God’s big story, waiting for me!** *(Point to yourself.)*

## Let’s hear part of God’s big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.

Read the God’s big story script provided or read Luke 24:1–12 from the Bible.

GOD’ S BIG **STORY SCRIPT: JESUS IS ALIVE!**

**SUPPLIES:** card stock, poster board or clear, plastic, adhesive paper (such as contact paper; 1 piece approximately 2 ft. x 3 ft.)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God’s Big Story Video, Storytelling Sheet

**Leader Tip:** This information about Jesus’ death and resurrection may be hard for preschoolers to understand. Explain it the best you can, but don’t worry about the kids grasping all the concepts right away. The most important thing for kids to know is that Jesus is alive, and He loves them.

Ahead of time, print the images from the Storytelling Sheets and cut out the pictures. Before the activity, set up the posterboard or clear adhesive plastic so

the sticky side is facing out, and the top of it is clipped or taped in place to an easel or wall. Have the cutouts in front of you so you can add each one as needed.

**The leaders said Jesus had to die, and so He was taken away and crucified. That means He was put on a cross to die.** Place the picture of Jesus over the picture of the cross so it looks like Jesus is on the cross.

**After Jesus died, one of His followers named Joseph of Arimathea asked if he could bury Jesus’ body. Joseph took Jesus’ body off the cross and placed it in a large tomb that was like a cave** (slowly and calmly take the picture of Jesus and place it on the sticky sheet, then place the picture of the tomb over the top)**. Then, soldiers rolled a big, heavy stone in front of the tomb** (place the picture of the stone in front of the tomb).

## Women who were friends of Jesus prepared spices and perfumes for Jesus’ body. The following day, the women went to the tomb, carrying their spices and perfumes. Move the picture of the women next to the tomb. When they arrived, they found something completely unexpected: the big, heavy stone covering the tomb’s opening had been moved. Jesus’ body was not inside anymore.

**The women were confused. What had happened to Jesus?** Move the stone from the tomb. **Suddenly, two angels appeared to the women.** Place the picture of the angels by the tomb. **The women were scared, but the angels said, “Jesus isn’t here; He came back to life!”**

**A short time later, Jesus appeared to the disciples. They must have been so excited! What do you think they did when they realized Jesus wasn’t dead? Did you know Jesus is still alive today? We can celebrate and be thankful too, because Jesus is alive**!

# PLAY THE GOD’S BIG STORY VIDEO

**Connecting the Wonder Truth**

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS ALIVE! Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**Word of Wonder**

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Word of Wonder Sheets, Created New Word of Wonder Slide (optional)

## Our Word of Wonder is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. We’ve learned Jesus died on the cross so our sins—all the wrong and bad that we have done—can be forgiven. When we’re forgiven, we get a new way to live. Jesus makes us new! He makes us new because He loves us.

**Word of Wonder**

**Jesus makes us new.**

—From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Look at the picture on the paper. This side has a person on it, but the other side has a person on it with hearts all around, because Jesus loves**

**us and makes us new. Let’s say the Word of Wonder together.** Say the verse several times together.

## Each time we say the word “new” in the verse, flip over your paper to the person with hearts.

Optional: Teach the kids motions to the verse and encourage them to say the words and do the motions with you:

* **JESUS—***Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for ‘Jesus’).*
* **MAKES US—***Both hands over your heart.*
* **NEW.—***Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

## What does Jesus make us?

* **How does it feel to know Jesus makes us new because He loves us?**

**Pre-K & Kinder**

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


# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is Alive!

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Circle Time: Questions in Eggs**

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (6), paper, pen, scissors (prep only), permanent marker (leader only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Jesus Is Alive Discussion Questions Sheet

Cut the questions apart. Place one question inside each plastic egg. Use a permanent marker to number the eggs 1–7, corresponding to the number of the question.

Show the kids the filled eggs. Ask one kid to select any egg and open it. Ask that kid to hand you the paper so you can read the question on the egg. Once the kids have had an opportunity to answer the question, select

a different child to choose another egg and repeat until all the questions have been answered.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

* **How did Jesus die?** (On a cross)

## Where was Jesus’ body put after He died? (A tomb)

* **How many days was Jesus’ body in the tomb?** (Three days)
* **What happened to Jesus after the three days?** (He came back to life.)
* **Who found the tomb empty?** (The women)
* **How do you think Jesus’ friends felt when they found out Jesus was alive?**
* **How do you feel knowing Jesus is alive now?**

**We used eggs to discover our questions. The questions were inside the eggs, but nothing was inside the tomb where Jesus’ friends put His body. He is alive! Jesus is so powerful that He even has power over death. Let’s talk to God now in prayer!**

**Leader Tip:** Jesus’ death on the cross may be a new concept to some kids and may be familiar to others. Be prepared to engage with those children who have deeper questions about the death and resurrection.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

**Craft: Craft Stick Crosses**

**SUPPLIES:** craft sticks (at least 2 per kid), various colors of construction paper (at least 1 sheet per kid), markers, glue, religious Easter stickers (optional)

## Jesus didn’t stay dead! He came back to life, and we can celebrate! It was sad when Jesus died on the cross, but we can be thankful for the cross, because Jesus died to forgive our sins, and He

**came back to life! We can say “Thank You” to God for this wonderful gift! We can celebrate Jesus and His resurrection! The word “resurrection” means He has come back to life. Let’s make our own crosses to take home as a reminder of the wonderful gift Jesus gave us: forgiveness and His life!**

Give each child a sheet of colored construction paper and two craft sticks. Help them glue the craft sticks onto the paper in the shape of a cross. Optional: Let them decorate the paper with markers and religious Easter stickers. Make an extra cross to show the kids as an example and also to use in the closing game.

**Game: Jesus Is Alive Circle Chase**

Have the kids form a circle. This game is similar to “Duck, Duck, Goose” except kids will say, “Jesus is alive!”

**Leader Tip:** You can keep this game easy and cooperative by avoiding any tagging as part of the chase. It may help not to have a spot in the middle of the circle, as kids this age may become confused or upset by playing the game in a more competitive way.

Designate one kid to tap heads as she goes around the circle. Have that kid begin making her way around the circle with this phrase, “Jesus is … Jesus is …. alive!” When a kid gets tapped on the word “alive,” he will get up to chase the tapper around the circle one time before it is his turn to tap others.

**Make It Inclusive!**

For kids who are not able to run (or choose not to run) or don’t want to have their heads tapped, adapt the game and have them sit in their own area and stand up (or raise their arms up) when they hear the phrase “Jesus is alive!”

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**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

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is Alive!

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Worship Response: Dancing**

**SUPPLIES:** ribbon wands or crepe paper streamers, toy instruments, toy microphones (optional), large plastic hoops (optional)

## In God’s big story today, we learned that Jesus didn’t just die. He rose again! He is alive again because of God’s power! Let’s celebrate right now that Jesus is alive. Let’s show Jesus how excited we are that He loves us.

Give kids time to respond in worship by playing the song “It’s a Happy Day” from the [Created](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0FzM686yvRM6n5Rjqf8fLA?si=fa83592d49c84d14&pt=c522a5d4c6e4d730a1bca1a64b9253cd)  [New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0FzM686yvRM6n5Rjqf8fLA?si=fa83592d49c84d14&pt=c522a5d4c6e4d730a1bca1a64b9253cd). Hand kids ribbon wands, instruments, megaphones, and hula hoops to use during worship and create a celebration experience kids will never forget as they celebrate Christ’s resurrection!

**Make It Inclusive!**

Using ribbons and instruments is a fun tactile way for kids to engage in worship; be aware of the noise and chaos kids with sensory issues. They may want to use their ribbons or instruments in another area of the room away from the loud noises.

**Prayer and Blessing**

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking Jesus for being alive and for loving us.

## Let’s pray and talk to God. Jesus, thank You for showing Your love through Your death on the cross (arms wrapped around you in a hug) and for coming back to life to live forever. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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

**Closing Game: Where’s the Cross?**

**SUPPLIES:** small cross

Ask if a kid is willing to offer the cross he created earlier for this next game, or, if you made an extra cross as an example in the earlier craft time, you can use that one.

## Today, we learned from God’s big story that Jesus died on the cross before He rose again. Let’s play a game where we’ll see if we can figure out who has a cross behind his back.

Have the kids sit in a circle and select one kid to sit in the middle. The kid in the middle needs to close his eyes for 10–15 seconds while you hide the cross behind another kid’s back. Then have the kid in the middle guess who has the cross behind her. You can give hints if you want. When the kid hiding the cross is revealed, it is her turn to be the next guesser in the middle the circle. Play multiple rounds.