**TODDLER TIME**

**April 9, 2023**

LESSON 4

**THE RESURRECTION**

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!

**OBJECT LESSON: A Cross**

**ACTIVITY: Jesus Is Alive!**

**God’s Big Story**

**Jesus is Alive!** Script

**Prayer and Blessing**

**ACTIVITY: Empty Egg Hunt**

**Object Lesson: A Cross**

**SUPPLIES:** pipe cleaners (2)

Before you begin, twist two pipe cleaners into the shape of a cross. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We’re going to talk today about a cross. Hold up the cross shape. It’s called a cross. There is a very important moment in God’s big story when Jesus dies on a cross and comes back to life! Let’s find out more and get curious!

Show the kids the cross and let them pass it around. Let them feel it and look at it. Ask them what they see.

**Activity: Jesus is Alive!**

Tell the kids to lie down and pretend to sleep.

When I shout the words, “Jesus is alive!” you will jump up and clap and cheer! Let’s practice. Everyone pretend to be asleep. Hold as still as you can and close your eyes.

Encourage the kids to lie down and pretend to be asleep. Then shout, “JESUS IS ALIVE!” and encourage the kids to jump up and cheer.

It may have been hard to be so still and pretend you were asleep. We’re going to hear today about a time when Jesus died and then came back to life, and lots of people were excited. We can be excited and cheer too! We’re going to celebrate Jesus today

Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS IS ALIVE!

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS—***Put both arms out to your sides (as if your hands are on a cross).*

**IS ALIVE!—***Jump up and down and cheer.*

**God’s Big Story**

**SUPPLIES:** cross made from pipe cleaners (or two craft sticks glued together), empty plastic Easter egg

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

Our God’s big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus. Let’s find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus on the cross, and what happened afterwards!

Read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided. As you talk, let kids hold a cross made of pipe cleaners (or use two craft sticks glued together).

**Jesus is Alive!** Script

The leaders said Jesus had to die, so He was taken away and put on a cross to die. It was very sad.

Show the kids the cross you’re holding.

After Jesus died, one of His followers named Joseph 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. Then soldiers rolled a big, heavy 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. When they arrived, they found something completely unexpected: the big, heavy stone that covered the opening of the tomb had been moved and Jesus’ body was not inside anymore. The women were confused. What had happened to Jesus? They were about to find out!

Hold up the empty plastic Easter egg and ask the kids what’s inside. Tell them it’s empty, like the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

Suddenly, two angels appeared to the women.

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 were so excited to discover Jesus was alive. He’s still alive today, and we can be excited too! Jesus is alive!

**Blessing and Prayer**

Let’s pray and talk to God. When I say, “cross,” hold your arms out to either side.

**Jesus, thank You for showing Your love for us by dying on the cross (hold arms out to either side) and for coming back to life to live forever. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.** Encourage the kids to cheer and clap to celebrate Jesus being alive.

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!

**Activity: Empty Egg Hunt**

**SUPPLIES:** empty plastic Easter eggs, candy, or prize-filled eggs (optional); baskets or bags (optional) **Jesus died on the cross and rose again, and when the women came to the tomb to see Jesus’ body, he wasn’t there! The tomb was empty because Jesus was alive and was out of the tomb, walking around! To remind us of the empty tomb and that Jesus is alive, let’s play a game where we hunt for empty Easter eggs.**

Ahead of time, hide empty Easter eggs around the room. Let the kids go on a hunt for the eggs. Kids can also use baskets or bags to collect eggs. (Optional) Hide candy-filled or prize-filled eggs as well and encourage the kids to separate the eggs and put the empty eggs in a special place.

Today, we learned from God’s big story that Jesus is alive. He loves us, and we can celebrate that Jesus is alive!