



March 31, 2024

CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Risen

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 27–28](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: God's Son, Jesus, is arrested, put on trial, and crucified. But after three days, He comes back to life!

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus forgives our sins, saves us, and gives us new life. —from [Titus 3:5](#)

CURIOSITY (PRE-SERVICE)

Four options for interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Play Stations:
 - Empty Egg Hunt
 - Find the Cross
 - Crucifixion and Resurrection Coloring Sheet
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF (WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON)

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 and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: [From Titus 3:5](#)

FAITH (APPLICATION)

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

- Circle Time: Up, Up, and Away!
- Craft: Tomb Stone Decorating

IDENTITY (RESPONSE & CLOSING)

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: Story of Jesus Bracelets
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Hop to It!

Wonder@HomeTM

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)

Wonder Ink



FOR FIVESTONE KIDS LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Risen!

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WORD OF WONDER: From Titus 3:5

Ministry leaders do all the things, amen? As a ministry leader, my planner is filled with lists of people to talk to do, emails to send, meetings to attend ... the list can seem endless at times. I relish the joy of crossing items off the list as each goal is met.

Have you ever accomplished all the things on your to-do list because you stayed focused on the tasks at hand? Sure, distractions popped up, but you kept your eye on the mission in front of you. What joy there is in crossing off those items and moving on to the next thing!

Jesus had one mission: to save the world from sin by dying on a cross and coming back to life three days later. His supernatural conception, His birth, every miracle, every lesson He taught, everything He modeled, even the situations that seemed to interrupt His daily plans, pointed back to His mission.

- How does Jesus' mission inform your calling?
- Jesus is risen; His mission is complete! How does this truth impact the details of your daily life?
- What practices might help you live with increased awareness of His victory?

Three days after suffering unimaginable pain on our behalf, Jesus rose and proved that He is the King of Kings! Now that's something to celebrate! Mission accomplished.

—Kathie Phillips

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus, the Son of God, is the only One who was able to defeat sin once and for all. He willingly went to the cross, dying a painful death in our place. His death and resurrection prove Him worthy of the title “Lord” ([Romans 10:9](#)).

WHAT?

Crucifixion was a horrific and supremely painful form of capital punishment that Rome reserved for common criminals or people of low social standing. It was a brutal deterrent. Bodies of victims could be left to rot and be pecked by birds.

WHERE?

Jesus was crucified outside Jerusalem, where God’s temple housed His presence on earth. The temple curtain tore to show that believers can now enter God’s presence directly “by the blood of Jesus” ([Hebrews 10:19, NIV](#)). God’s presence, as the Holy Spirit, dwells in Jesus-followers.

WHEN?

Jesus died during the festival of Passover, when Jews remembered that God rescued and redeemed their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. His Sunday resurrection symbolizes a new creation.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

In [Genesis 3:15](#), God said that a seed of the woman would strike a blow to the serpent who tempted humans to sin. Christ’s death and resurrection were God’s plan: “He himself carried our sins’ in his body on the cross” ([1 Peter 2:24, NIV](#)).



Curiosity (Pre-Service)

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

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

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Countdown Video

Begin playing the countdown video at 10:55am. At the conclusion of the countdown video, please lead your small group to the kids worship room.



Play Stations

SUPPLIES: plastic eggs (1 bag), small stones (6–12), buckets (2), Easter grass (1 bag), black permanent marker (prep only), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Crucifixion and Resurrection Coloring Sheet](#) (1 copy 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: Empty Egg Hunt

Set-up: Put a small stone in every egg except three (leaving three eggs empty), and put all of the eggs in a bucket.. If you have a lot of kids, you could prepare several buckets.

Play: Encourage kids to dig through the bucket and find the empty eggs. They can try different tactics to figure out which are empty, such as judging by weight, sound, or by opening the eggs and looking inside.

Play Station: Find the Cross

Set-up: Use a black permanent marker to draw a cross on one small stone. Put it and the other stones in a bucket filled with Easter grass.

Play: Kids will dig through the Easter grass to find the one stone with a cross on it. When one kid finds the stone, return the stone to the bucket and shuffle stones around for the next kid to take a turn.

Play Station: Crucifixion and Resurrection Coloring Sheet

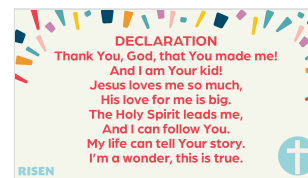
Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn over the sheet and draw a picture of how they celebrate Easter.

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

Show the [Declaration slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with 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 can be 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").



Belief (Worship & Bible Lesson)

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

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

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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, we celebrate You today! We praise You because You are powerful! Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead. You are alive and powerful, and You are with us today! Help us focus on You and hear what You have to say to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible.

Open a Bible and show them where the story is found. 1

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week 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 Matthew in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Matthew 27:27–31](#), [45–51](#), and [28:1–10](#) from the Bible.

God's Big STORY SCRIPT: CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

SUPPLIES: Bible, small disposable cups or bowls (8) (1 per kid), jelly beans, brown paper bags filled with plastic egg halves (optional, 8)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Bible Story Picture Map](#) (1 per kid)

Leader Tip: Be aware of food-related allergies. If there are kids in the room who can't have jelly beans, find an alternative snack they can have, or you can eliminate the jelly beans altogether and give each kid a brown bag full of plastic egg halves to use.

Ahead of time, print one [Bible Story Picture Map](#) for each kid. Give each kid a Bible Story Picture Map and a cup of jelly beans. Instead of printing a map for each kid, you could print one for each group and let the kids work together.



Don't eat the jelly beans yet! We are going to use them to help tell the story today. This map has pictures that are part of the story. When I get to each part of the story, put a jelly bean on that picture. They aren't in order, so you need to pay attention! When we're done, you can eat all the jelly beans.

Jesus is God's Son. He taught people what God was like by the way He lived and healed and helped people. But Jesus' most important mission was to rescue the world from sin. Do you know what sin is? Pause to allow kids to answer. **Right! Sin is the wrong things we do that separate us from God.**

Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples, or followers. He was arrested by the religious leaders. Do you see anything on your map that looks like something people wear when they are arrested? Pause to give kids time to put a jelly bean on the handcuffs. **Good job!**

Jesus had to go on trial before Pilate, the Roman leader in Jerusalem, early on a Friday morning. Do you see anything that a judge in a trial might use? Direct kids to put a jelly bean on the gavel, as they may not know what it is. **The people accused Jesus of many things, but He didn't respond. He knew He had come to die for our sins, and this was all part of God's plan.**

Even though Jesus hadn't sinned or done anything wrong, the crowd shouted that Jesus should be killed by being nailed to a cross, which was a common way

for criminals to be punished in that time. Pilate gave the crowd what they asked for and handed Jesus over to be killed.

Pilate's soldiers were mean to Jesus and made fun of Him. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Do you see a crown of thorns on your map?

Pause for kids to put a jelly bean on the crown of thorns. **The soldiers took Jesus to a hill, where they nailed Jesus to a cross between two criminals. Do you see anything on your map that reminds you of Jesus dying on the cross?** Encourage kids to put a jelly bean on the cross.

After some time, it got very dark even though it was still the middle of the day. Jesus cried out from the cross, and then He died. When He died, a curtain in the temple, where people met to worship God, tore from top to bottom, and there was a big earthquake. Do you see anything on your map that reminds you of this part of the story? Encourage kids to put a jelly bean on the torn curtain.

One of Jesus' followers took Jesus' body off the cross and put it in a tomb, which is where people's bodies go after they have died. He rolled a large stone over the entrance so no one could get in ... or out! Or so they thought!

Three days later, on Sunday morning, two of Jesus' followers, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary, went to Jesus' tomb to put spices on His body. Suddenly, there was a powerful earthquake, and an angel rolled the stone away! Do you see anything on your map that reminds you of this? Direct kids to put a jelly bean on the angel. **At first, the women were scared. The angel told them not to be afraid and that Jesus wasn't there. Sure enough, the women saw that the tomb was empty! Do you see an empty tomb on your map?** Encourage kids to put a jelly bean on the empty tomb.

The women were scared but excited. So they ran back to tell Jesus' other disciples what had happened when suddenly, they ran into Jesus! They hugged Him and worshiped Him. They realized He was real and alive, and that He really had risen from the dead! Do you see anything on your map that shows this part of the story? Kids should put a jelly bean on the last picture: two women hugging Jesus.

Jesus is more powerful than anything—even death. He could have come down from the cross, but He chose to stay because He knew we needed a way to be with God. He took the punishment for all our sins by dying in our place. Because of this, we can be forgiven and have a relationship with God when we

trust in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus didn't stay dead. When we say, "He is risen," we're celebrating today because He's alive.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

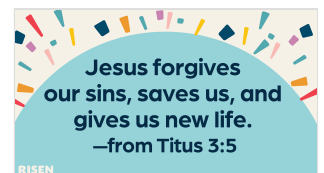
Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS RISEN. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Long before Jesus came to earth, the first humans—Adam and Eve—disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. Sin separates humans from God. But God had a plan! In [Genesis 3:15](#), God said that a seed of the woman—someone who would be born in the woman's family many years later— would defeat sin. That person was Jesus! His death and resurrection were part of God's plan from the very beginning! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, our enemies of sin, Satan, and death are all defeated once and for all. Thanks to Jesus, our sins can be forgiven, and we can live with God forever if we trust in Him!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, disposable cups (7), plastic eggs (4), basket or paper bag, permanent marker (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Slide](#) (optional)



WORD OF WONDER

**Jesus forgives our sins, saves us,
and gives us new life.**

—from Titus 3:5

Leader Tip: To make this more challenging for older kids, you could add extra cups that are blank, or move some of the cups farther back.

Make It Inclusive!

For kids who can't roll the egg, have a leader point to the cups in the correct order as you say the verse, and the kid can use her hands to knock over the cups as each part of the verse is recited.

Before kids arrive, use a permanent marker to write one or two words of the Word of Wonder on each cup. Set up cups in a horizontal line about four inches apart, with the verse out of order.

Put the eggs in a basket or paper bag several feet away from the cups. Have kids line up near the eggs.

Do you know the Word of Wonder for this series? Some of you may already know it, and for some, this is your first time seeing it. Let's say it together a couple of times. Read the verse out loud with the kids, while pointing to the cups with the corresponding words as you say it.

We're going to take turns rolling an egg toward the cups to knock them over in the correct order. Point to the words of the verse as you say them. Even kids who can't read can still listen and watch as you say the words.

What's the first cup we're aiming for? Allow kids to answer. **That's right! The one marked "Jesus."** Point to the cup with "Jesus" on it. Have a leader stand by the cups, ready to set them up again if kids knock over the wrong one, or to restart the activity. Have kids take turns rolling an egg toward the cups, reminding them which cup to aim for, until all kids have had a chance and all the cups are knocked over. You may want to move younger kids close to the cups to make it easier to knock them over.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—*Point up.*
- **FORGIVES OUR SINS,**—*Palms together (praying hands motion).*
- **SAVES US,**—*Arms out to your sides (make a cross).*
- **AND GIVES US**—*Hold your hands in front of you as if receiving something.*
- **NEW LIFE.**—*Bring your arms up and out to your sides.*
- **FROM TITUS 3:5**—*Hold your hands open, as if holding a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **God sent Jesus to save us. What does this show us about God?**

- **How does it make you feel knowing Jesus will forgive all your sins when you trust in Him?**



Faith (Application)

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

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 Risen!

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Circle Time: Up, Up, and Away!

Have kids sit in a circle. Choose someone to be "It," or, the tagger. Similar to the popular game Duck, Duck, Goose, the tagger will start walking around the outside of the circle. The person who's It will gently touch each kid on the head, saying "up" or "away." When the tagger says "away," that person will get up and chase the tagger, racing back to the open seat. Whoever gets to the seat last will be the tagger going forward and will first have to answer a question about the story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who wanted Jesus to die?** *(religious leaders, the crowd, and Roman soldiers)*
- **What did Jesus say when He was accused of bad things while He was on trial?** *(nothing; He didn't defend Himself)*
- **Who told the women that Jesus was alive?** *(the angel)*
- **How do you think the women felt when they saw Jesus alive after He was crucified?**
- **What would you have said to Jesus if you had seen Him on that day?**
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?**
- **Who can you tell about the good news that Jesus is alive?**

The women were surprised to see that Jesus wasn't in the tomb but had risen back to life! He rose up, up, and went away from the tomb. Let's talk to Jesus now in prayer and thank Him for dying for us and rising back to life.

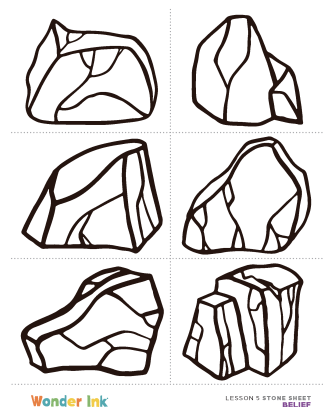
Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank Jesus for dying for their sins and praise Him that He is alive and with us.

Craft: Tomb Stone Decorating

SUPPLIES: smooth stones (1 per kid), stickers, washable paint and paintbrushes or markers, paper plates (1 per kid), cups of water (1 for every 4–5 kids), paint pens (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Stone Sheet](#) (1 sheet per 6 kids, optional)

Leader Tip: An alternative to using real stones is to print the [Stone Sheet](#) so there's a stone for each kid to color and decorate. Older kids can cut them out on their own using safety scissors, but stones should be cut out ahead of time for younger kids. You could use markers and stickers or paint to decorate the stones.



The religious leaders put a large stone in front of Jesus' tomb to protect His body. This ensured nothing went in ... or out—or so they thought! Jesus couldn't be held in the tomb by the stone—or anything else! When the women went to see Him in the tomb, they were surprised to see the angel had rolled away the stone and find that Jesus wasn't there. He had risen! We're going to decorate stones that you can take home to remind you that the stone was rolled away, and Jesus is risen. Give each kid a stone and set out decorating supplies, such as stickers, markers, or paint. They could also use paint pens.

When most kids are done, have them carefully hold up their stones if they have wet paint on them. **Let's all hold up our stones and say the Wonder Truth together: "Jesus is risen!" Take your stone home to remind you that He is risen.** If using paint, lay stones in a safe place to dry and remind kids to pick them up before leaving.



Identity (Response & Closing)

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

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: Story of Jesus Bracelets

SUPPLIES: assorted colored beads (red, brown, green, grey, white; at least one of each color for each kid), string (at least 8", 1 piece per kid), letter beads (optional), pipe cleaners (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Leader Tip: You could also use pipe cleaners that can easily be twisted together at the end instead of tying knots in string.

Cut string in lengths of around 8". Set out beads, watching closely to ensure kids don't put beads in their mouths or noses. Hold up a brown bead first.



We're going to make bracelets to remind us of God's big story about Jesus—the story of Jesus dying and returning to life through God's power so we can be saved and become children of God!

First, we'll put a brown bead on our bracelets. Brown reminds us of the crown of thorns that was put on Jesus' head when the soldiers made fun of Him. Brown also reminds us of the cross He died on.

Next, put a red bead on your bracelet. The color red reminds us of Jesus' blood when He died for us.

Then comes a grey bead that represents the stone that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.

Next, put on a white bead to remind us of the angel who rolled the stone away and surprised the women who saw the empty tomb.

Finally, put on a green bead to remind us of the new life that Jesus gives us when we trust in Him to save us!

Take time in between each color to let kids put the beads on the string. Younger kids might need help. You can use more beads of the same color and let the kids do a pattern to fill their string. You could also add letter beads to spell "Jesus" if you have letter beads. You could also use pipe cleaners instead of string to hold the beads.

Help kids tie off their bracelets so the beads don't slide off. **Your bracelets look beautiful! Using the beads, take some time to practice telling someone nearby about God's big story of Jesus.**

Do you remember what each color stands for?

Brown stands for the crown of thorns and the cross where Jesus died.

Red stands for Jesus' blood when He died for us.

Grey stands for the stone and tomb.

White stands for the angel who told the women Jesus had risen.

Green stands for new life we can have in Jesus when we trust in Him as our Savior.

Play music from the [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) while kids practice sharing the story by using the beads.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking Jesus for dying on a cross to give us new life.

God, thank You for forgiving us when we sin and for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to take the punishment for us so we can spend forever with You in heaven! We celebrate You and praise 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: May you live with joy knowing that Jesus is alive and with us! He died for you and rose again because He loves you!

Closing Game: Hop to It!

SUPPLIES: masking tape, plastic eggs (2)

Leader Tip: To make the game more challenging, bring pillowcases for kids to get in to jump and then pass to the next kid. To make the game easier, younger kids can run around the egg without hopping.

Set two eggs at one end of the room, with several feet between them. Make a line with masking tape at the other end of the room. If the room is large, make the line closer to the eggs. Have kids line up behind the masking tape in two equal teams.

How do you think the women felt when they saw the angel and then saw Jesus in front of them? Allow kids to answer. **Yes! They were excited! They ran back to their friends to tell them the news! Let's show the same energy and excitement for this next activity! Imagine you just saw Jesus with your own eyes. How excited would you be? How fast would you run to tell your friends?** Allow kids to answer. Don't rush them through this. They could even close their eyes to imagine they are meeting Jesus face to face.

We are going to hop, one at a time, to each egg, going around the egg, and then back to tag the next person in line. The first team to get everyone back after hopping around the egg wins. Remember to hop quickly, just like the women would have moved quickly to tell their friends about Jesus because they were so excited!