

EASTER SUNDAY -- 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!

INTRO ACTIVITY: Mess-Free Finger Painting

ACTIVITY: Picture This Egg Hunt

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

ACTIVITY: Hop to It!

Wonder@Home™

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 \(PDF\)](#)



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!

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27–28

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](#)).

INTRO ACTIVITY: Mess-Free Finger Painting

SUPPLIES: various colors of tempera paint, gallon-sized resealable bags (at least 3), masking tape (optional)

Leader Tip: To keep kids from opening the bags, you could tape them closed and tape them to a table or the floor.

Before kids arrive, fill resealable plastic bags half-full with various colors of tempera paint (one color for each bag) and seal bags shut. Set out bags for kids to play with as they arrive. They can use their fingers to make shapes by moving the paint around from the outside of the bag.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Hi, everyone! It's good to see you! It looks like you're having fun making shapes in the bags. Can you use your finger to make a cross shape? It looks like this.

Show the kids how to make a cross on the paint bag with a finger. Give kids an opportunity to try making crosses on their own. **Does anyone know why crosses are important?** Encourage kids to answer "Jesus," or some could say, "Jesus died on the cross."

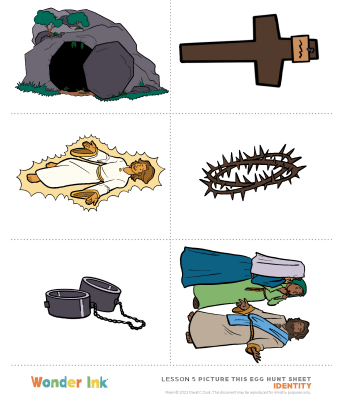
That's right! The cross reminds us of Jesus. Today, we're going to learn that Jesus died on a cross, but He didn't stay dead. We'll learn that Jesus is risen!

ACTIVITY: Picture This Egg Hunt

SUPPLIES: plastic eggs (at least 6), scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Picture This Egg Hunt Sheet](#) (1 copy)

Leader Tip: You could also hide other eggs with no pictures in them around the room to make the egg hunt more engaging for a larger group. Or you could print two copies and have two of each picture hidden around the room.



Before kids arrive, print and cut out pictures from the [Picture This Egg Hunt Sheet](#) and put each picture inside a plastic egg. Hide the eggs throughout the room.

I need your help! I have some pictures that will help me tell our story, but they're hidden all over the room in eggs. Can you help me find them so we can get curious about our story for today?

Encourage kids to find all the hidden eggs and bring them to you. The kids can open the eggs and take the pictures out. Hold up the pictures one at a time for the kids to see.

We have all these pictures, but we don't know what order to put them in. Thanks for helping me find them all! Today we're going to hear about two women who went looking for someone very important, but they couldn't find Him at first. We'll learn that Jesus is risen!

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS RISEN.

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 your arms out to your sides (like a cross).*

IS RISEN.—*Bring your hands low and scoop them upwards, raising them over your head.*

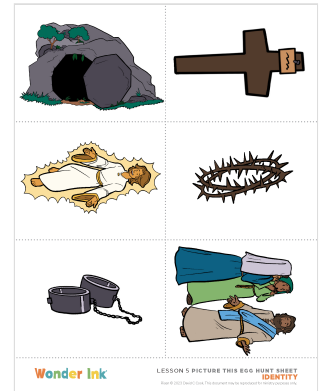
God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Picture This Egg Hunt Sheet](#) (1 copy)

Use the pictures from the [Picture This Egg Hunt](#) activity or print a copy of the Picture This Egg Hunt Sheet and cut apart the pictures.

Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about how Jesus died on the cross for us and rose from the grave. Let's find out from the Bible how and why that happened!



Jesus is God's Son. He came to earth for a purpose. We all sin, which means we make wrong choices that hurt our relationship with God and separate us from Him. We needed a way to be close to God again, and Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for us because He loves us.

Some religious leaders didn't like Jesus and had Him arrested, even though He didn't do anything wrong. Do you see a picture of anything that would be used when someone is arrested? Pause for kids to find the picture of the handcuffs. **They use handcuffs!**

The religious leaders accused Jesus of many bad things that He didn't do. Jesus didn't respond. All the people wanted Him dead, so the judge said He should die on the cross. The soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Does anyone see a picture of a crown of thorns? Encourage kids to pick up or point to the appropriate picture. **Yes, that's it! They were so mean to Jesus and hurt Him.**

Jesus died on a cross. Pause for kids to find the cross picture. **That's right! After He died on the cross, His body was put in a tomb, or a grave, and was closed up with a large stone.**

Two days later, some of Jesus' followers, two women, came to the tomb expecting to see His body, but He wasn't there!

An angel appeared and rolled the stone away so they could see it was empty. Can you find two pictures that show this part of the story?

Encourage kids to find the angel and empty tomb. **Good job!**

The angel told the women Jesus wasn't there and that He was risen from the tomb. He was alive! The women ran to tell the rest of the people and were surprised to meet Jesus on the way! They ran to Him and hugged Him. Can you find a picture that shows this? Pause for kids to find the picture. **Good job!**

Jesus appeared to His disciples and many people. When we say He is risen, that means He came back to life after He had died. Jesus died because He loves us all, and we can trust Him to forgive the things we do wrong and save us so we can have a relationship with God.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God and thank Him for Jesus.

God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth to die for us on a cross so we can be with You forever. Thank You for raising Him from the dead. Help us celebrate Him today. 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 celebrate today knowing that Jesus died for you and is alive and with you. The same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in you!

ACTIVITY: Hop to It!

SUPPLIES: plastic egg

Leader Tip: Younger kids can hop in place or walk around the egg.

Place the egg on one end of the room and encourage the kids to stand about four feet from it.

Can you hop like a bunny? Let me see everyone try! Encourage kids to practice hopping in place. **Great job! We're each going to hop down to the egg, hop around it, and hop back to the starting place, and then the next kid can go. If you can't hop, that's OK!** Many toddlers can't hop with two feet. It's OK for them to hop in their own way, or not at all. Some might walk around the egg and hop in place when they get back.

How do you think the women felt when they saw Jesus alive? Allow kids to answer. **That's right! I bet they were happy and excited! Show me your happy and excited face!** Pause for kids to respond. **They may have raced as fast as they could, in an energetic and excited way. Now let's run as fast as we can around the egg, pretending we are racing to tell our friends that Jesus is alive, just like the women in the story.** Encourage kids to run to the egg, around it, and back, one at a time.