



## ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

### LESSON 4 THE RESURRECTION

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Lives!

**SCRIPTURE:** John 20

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After Jesus dies on the cross, His body is placed in a tomb. Three days later His followers find the tomb empty and discover that Jesus is again alive!

**WORD OF WONDER:** I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts. —Psalm 77:12

#### CURIOSITY

#### BELIEF

#### FAITH

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • Welcome Question: What do you do for fun?       | preservice |
| • Curiosity Questions                             | preservice |
| • Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12                     | 2 min      |
| • Word of Wonder Activity                         | 7-8 min    |
| • Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids | 10 min     |
| • Small Group Prayer Time                         | 5 min      |
| • LARGE GROUP                                     | 30 min     |
| • Responding in Worship: Body Prayer              | 10 min     |



### INVITATION

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Lives!

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Psalm 77:12

When your future feels uncertain, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When pain twists its knife, filling your days and stealing away your sleep, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When friendships strain or snap, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When bills pile up and you dread checking your bank balance, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When anxiety takes your breath away, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When death robs you of someone you can't live without, remember: *Jesus lives.*

*Jesus lives.*

Those two words—words you'll share with your kids in this lesson—fuel hope. More than hope, actually—they fuel a certainty that beyond whatever troubles tear at us today is an eternity of joy with Jesus. Because He lives, we will live. Because we're His, there's no need to fear that death will one day lay claim to us.

As you read John 20:1–20, put yourself outside that empty cave. Breathe in the morning air, feel the dew beneath your feet. Stare into the tomb and hear the angel's question: "Why are you crying?" (John 20:13).

Why, indeed? The reality that Jesus lives changes ... everything.

May the Holy Spirit instill in you the fresh hope that Jesus' first followers felt when they saw the risen Christ. And may the kids you serve discover that the hope that's in you can be the hope that fills their hearts too.

*Jesus lives.*

—**Mikal Keefer**

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Mary Magdalene was part of a group of women who followed Jesus, traveling with Him and His disciples. Jesus had driven seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). She was present at the crucifixion (John 19:25) and saw where Jesus' body was laid (Mark 15:47).

**WHAT?**

Mary went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone removed. She thought Jesus' body had been taken, but Jesus had risen! After Mary saw two angels in the tomb, Jesus appeared to her. He sent her to tell the disciples, and He later appeared to them.

**WHERE?**

Jesus' body was laid in a tomb newly hewn from rock and belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb was in a garden near Golgotha, where Jesus had been crucified, outside the city gate of Jerusalem but still near the city.

**WHEN?**

Jesus died and was placed in the tomb on the Jewish Preparation Day before the Sabbath started at sundown. Jesus rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath, and the empty tomb was discovered by Mary early that morning.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Jesus' resurrection means a power greater than death has arrived on the scene of history. Jesus defeated death! The God of Scripture and of all history lives, and the good news is that He will also raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.

## Small Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Psalm 77:12

### Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

**RESOURCES:** Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

#### As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

**“What do you do for fun?”** Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

#### While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. 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.

- **What are three things you do that prove you’re alive?**
- **What does Jesus do that shows He’s alive?**

### Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

## WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.**

—Psalm 77:12 (NirV)

### Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Encourage kids to find Psalm 77:12 in their Bibles. **"There's no question about it: God has done some mighty deeds! Strike your best "mighty" pose and join me in saying today's Word of Wonder aloud."**

**Leader Tip:** Strike a heroic pose yourself to demonstrate what you mean by a "mighty" pose. It's often quicker to show rather than explain!

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **Did God's people in the Bible ever forget God's mighty deeds? Do you ever forget the things He has done? Why do you think that is?**
- **If you had to give God a grade for His mighty deeds, what grade would you give Jesus rising from the dead? Why that grade?**

### Word of Wonder Activity

**"I love the advice we find in Psalm 77:12: Stop to remember the mighty acts of God. One of those mighty acts is Jesus rising from the dead, but that's not the only thing we could remember. Let's read our Word of Wonder—and then hop to remembering what God has done!"**

Invite kids to gather along one side of the room—together with their small groups if that works best—and to join you in reading aloud the Word of Wonder three times from the screen. Then ask kids to move to the opposite side of the room by jumping or hopping—but each jump/hop must be preceded by someone calling out a mighty act of God. (If your space is large, consider having kids take giant steps instead of hops/jumps.)

At the far side of the room, have kids join you in reading the verse aloud again and then return to where they were sitting.

If kids struggle to think of mighty acts of God to shout out, get them started with these ideas: creating the world, speaking to Moses from a burning bush, splitting the Red Sea, closing the mouths of the lions with Daniel, coming to earth as a baby, healing a man who was paralyzed, etc.

**Leader Tip:** Control the pace of this activity by announcing that you'll repeat mighty acts called out by kids, and kids can all take a jump or hop only after you mention a mighty act.

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles perkid Bible Story Picture 1 /SG

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find John. Introduce today's true story from the Bible. Today in God's Big Story we will hear about God rescuing His people.

Read John 20:1–3, 9–20 Then discuss the following:

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **Why do you think Mary Magdalene was sad as she went to visit Jesus' tomb?** (*Jesus had died on the cross.*)
- **Mary Magdalene ran to give Peter and John a message. What was it?** (*The stone had been moved from the entrance of the tomb.*)
- **When Mary returned to the tomb, what did she see?** (*Two angels dressed in white. Then she saw a man standing behind her who she thought was the gardener but was actually Jesus.*)
- **Jesus' disciples locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Why do you think they were afraid of them?**
- **Why do you think it matters that Jesus rose from the dead?**
- **Jesus appeared suddenly to the disciples. If Jesus appeared suddenly to you, what would you do? What would you say? Why?**

Mary Magdalene and the disciples were surprised Jesus rose from the dead, even though Jesus told them it would happen. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it is true! And because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him. Let's thank Him for that now!

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Show kids how to use their hands to make the shape of a heart—curled fingers up, thumbs touching beneath. As they hold that shape, ask kids to share aloud simple sentence prayers thanking God that Jesus lives and, through His Holy Spirit, can live in each of them.

### Make It Inclusive!

Thinking of words to pray aloud can feel intimidating to some kids. You can help by speaking simple phrases of praise to God and inviting kids to repeat after you. For example, "Jesus, thank You for loving me!", "God, thank You for beating death!", and "Jesus, thank You for life!"

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles per kid , Bible Story Picture /SG

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find John. Introduce today's true story from the Bible. Today in God's Big Story we will hear about God rescuing His people.

**Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.**

**Read John 20:1–3, 9–20 or pick 2 volunteers to read. Then discuss the following:**

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **Who was the first person to arrive at Jesus' empty tomb? Who were the next two?**  
(Mary Magdalene, then Peter and John)
- **Mary Magdalene was crying when she saw a man she thought was the gardener. Why do you think she was crying? What do you think she was feeling?** (Mary thought someone had stolen Jesus' body. Sad.)
- **What might explain why Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus?**
- **The disciples were hiding from Jewish leaders. Why?**
- **When you think about Jesus being alive right now, what images come to mind?**
- **Jesus is alive ... what difference will that make in your life this week?**
- **Jesus appeared suddenly to the disciples. If Jesus appeared suddenly to you, what would you do? What would you say? Why?**

Even though Jesus told His disciples He'd die and then rise again, they were shocked when it happened. It seemed too amazing to be possible—but it was true. And because Jesus defeated death, through Him we can live forever too ... with Him! Let's thank Him for that now!

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Have kids use their hands to make the shape of a heart—curled fingers up, thumbs touching beneath—and hold that shape as they pray. Encourage kids to share aloud simple sentence prayers thanking God that Jesus lives and, through His Holy Spirit, can live in each of them.

### Make It Inclusive!

Thinking of words to pray aloud can feel intimidating to some kids. You can help by speaking simple phrases of praise to God and inviting kids to repeat after you. For example, "Jesus, thank You for loving me!", "God, thank You for beating death!", and "Jesus, thank You for life!"

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

### Responding in Worship: Body Prayer

Gather kids together.

Begin your worship response time by singing a song together from the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#), such as “My Savior Lives.” Then invite kids to spread out around the room so they won’t distract one another as they consider how Jesus is alive—and has given them life too.

Explain that you’ll call out specific parts of the body that kids will point to—their heads, for example—and then think about how, through the Holy Spirit living in them, they might live for Jesus with those parts of their bodies. Pause after calling out each body part to give kids time to pray.

**Leader Tip:** Mention that the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the lives of Jesus-followers and our loving helper. The Holy Spirit is always eager to help us live according to God’s good ways. Through the Holy Spirit, we don’t simply live for Jesus—we live with Him!

Parts of the body you might mention include lips (How could we speak words that show Jesus’ love?), feet (Where might the Holy Spirit prompt us to go?), ears (Who might we listen to?), arms (Who might the Holy Spirit prompt us to hug or hold close?), hands (How could we serve others and serve Jesus with our hands?), and eyes (What mighty act of God might we see and praise God for doing?).

Gather kids together. Invite them to place their hands on their heads as you start praying. Then when you say, “our whole bodies and our whole lives,” they can bend down and touch their toes: **Thank You, God, that Jesus lives! We want to follow Him with our whole bodies and our whole lives! Thank You for Your love. We ask Your Holy Spirit to help each of us live with and for Jesus today and always! In Jesus’ name, Amen.**