



**PRE-K
LARGE 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. —Psalm 77:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Jesus Loves Me, God's Way
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives!

SCRIPTURE: John 20

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.



LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives!

SCRIPTURE: John 20

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Tac asked if he could come by for a visit today, so let's say, "Hello!" to Tac. (Allow time for the kids to respond.)

Tac the Cat: Hello, everyone! It seems like something special is happening today. I wanted to come find out what's going on. Do you know?

Leader: Yes, it is a special day today, Tac! It's Easter!

Tac the Cat: Oh, gotcha! So, it's Easter egg hunt day?

Leader: Well, some people may hunt eggs today, and we are going to play with Easter eggs. But that's not exactly what Easter is about.

Tac the Cat: Oh, hmm ... well, is it the day we eat special food?

Leader: You can eat special food on Easter, but that's not the reason we celebrate Easter.

Tac the Cat: Oh, I know! Easter is the day to wear fancy clothes!

Leader: Well, you can wear fancy clothes on Easter, but you don't have to. That's still not what Easter is all about.

Tac the Cat: I really need some help! What is Easter about? Why are we celebrating Easter?

Leader: I'm glad you asked, Tac! Easter is a special day because we are celebrating that Jesus lives!

Tac the Cat: Jesus lives?

Leader: Yes! Jesus died on the cross, but He didn't stay dead. He lives! And that is something we can celebrate every day, not just today on Easter.

Tac the Cat: You're right! That is really good news. Can you tell me more about how that happened?

Leader: Sure, Tac! It's time for all of us to keep learning about Easter. Come back to hear our God's big story for today!

Tac the Cat: I sure will. Thanks so much, everyone, and ... happy Easter!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What are some special things about Easter? Allow the kids to respond. How is Jesus alive again after He died on the cross? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how Jesus lives and how that's great news?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS LIVES!** Today we'll celebrate that Jesus lives!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

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

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.)

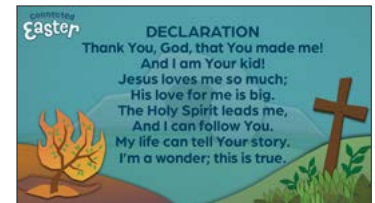
March in place like you're following the leader.

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").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Father God, as we listen and learn about the resurrection, may Your Spirit teach us, lead us, and show us Your love and plan. Show us how Jesus loves us and gave His life for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus lives. Let's sing about the resurrection together! The word *resurrection* means Jesus came back to life after He died!"

WORSHIP: Jesus Loves Me, God's Way

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

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? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

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

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

"During God's big story today, we're going to think about how the people felt, and we're going to make faces to match their emotions. For example, if someone in the story is happy, I will make a happy face with my eyes wide open and a big smile, and you can do the same thing. Let's practice! Make a happy face and ask the kids to copy you. Great job! Now, let's listen to God's big story, and I'll tell you when to make a special face!

After Jesus died, His body was put in a tomb, which was kind of like a cave. A large stone was put in front of the tomb. Jesus died on a Friday. Make a sad face. Then early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, a woman named Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. Mary was a friend of Jesus. She was very sad that Jesus died. Make a sad face.

When Mary got to the tomb, the stone was not in front of it. She ran to tell Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, His followers. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first. Make a tired face. They bent down and looked inside. They saw the cloths Jesus was wrapped in. But Jesus was not there! Where was Jesus? Make a worried face.

Peter and John left, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. Make a sad face. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus' body had been. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked. Mary answered, "They have taken my Lord away. I don't know where they have put him" (John 20:13). Make a confused face.

Then Mary turned around. Someone was there. Who was it? Mary did not know. The man asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" (John 20:15). So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him" (John 20:15). She wanted to know where Jesus' body was. Then the man said her name. "Mary" (John 20:16). Mary knew that voice. She had heard it many times before. It was Jesus! Jesus was alive! Make a happy face. He rose from the dead! Jesus was right there in front of her. Mary was so excited to see Jesus. Make an excited face. He died, but now He was alive again! Mary went to go tell the disciples the good news!

That night the disciples were in a room. "They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders" (John 20:19). Make a scared face. But locked doors couldn't keep Jesus out. He came into the room. Now they saw that Jesus was alive! He said to them, "May peace be with you!" (John 20:19). Then Jesus showed them where His hands had been hurt. It was really Him. The disciples were so happy! Make a happy face. Jesus really did die. But now He was alive again! He beat death and came back to life. We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!"

Leader Tip: Some kids have difficulty interpreting and using facial expressions and emotions. If so, the specific features of facial expressions can be taught. For example, you can tell the kids that if we see people who are frowning and have their eyebrows down, they might be sad.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life. That means He resurrected! The power to resurrect means Jesus has more power than death. Jesus beat death! God lives still today, and the good news is that one day, all His followers will also get to live with Him forever."

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for Jesus' life and resurrection.

Thank You, God, that Jesus lives! Thank You for Your power and love. Thank You for this day to celebrate and remember all that You have done. 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 experience the joy of new life through Jesus, your living Savior! And may you grow in love for God as you learn about all that He has done and will do.