



## 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

- Play Stations:
  - Cloth Wrap
  - Empty or Full?
  - The Resurrection Coloring Sheet
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12
- Circle Time: Easter Egg Basket Pass
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Jesus Lives Celebration
- Closing Game: Easter Egg Toss



Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## 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

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** cloth strips, white crepe paper, or medical wrap (several rolls); cardboard tubes (1 per kid); scissors (prep only); coloring utensils

**RESOURCES:** Empty or Full? Picture Cards (3 sets per SG), The Resurrection Coloring Sheet (1 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 of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: Cloth Wrap

**Set-up:** Place the cloth strips, white crepe paper, or medical wrap and cardboard tubes in the play station area.

**Play:** Encourage the kids to wrap the cardboard tubes with the cloth strips and cover the entire tube with the white wrapping.

#### Play Station: Empty or Full?

**Set-up:** Before kids arrive, print sets of the Empty or Full? Picture Cards (one set per every two or three kids) and cut out the picture cards. Place each set of cards in separate stacks.

**Play:** Ask the kids to sort the stack of picture cards into a stack of things that are empty and a stack of things that are full. If they want a challenge, encourage them to play a game of memory match with the cards.



**Leader Tip:** As an alternative or supplement to the Empty or Full? Play Station, hide plastic Easter eggs around the room. Some eggs should be empty, and some should be full of crinkle paper or another filler. After finding the eggs, kids can sort them into two piles (empty and full).

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, writing utensil, paper (several sheets), scissors (prep only), plastic eggs (at least 20), basket, posterboard, glue stick, drawing and coloring utensils, stickers

### WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you  
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

Before kids arrive, draw a cross on 10 or more small pieces of paper. Place one of these papers in each plastic egg except for nine eggs, which will remain empty.

Write the Word of Wonder, including the reference, on a sheet of paper and cut out each word and reference so that there are 11 smaller pieces of paper (one word per paper, and the reference on one piece). Before the Word of Wonder activity begins, hide all the eggs around the room, or have half of your group stand with eyes closed while the other half helps hide the eggs (then switch and do the activity again!).

**"To learn our Word of Wonder today, we're going to have a special kind of Easter egg hunt! There are eggs hidden around the room. When you find an egg, open it to see what is inside. If there is a piece of paper with a cross on it, put the egg in this basket and then keep looking for more eggs. If you find an egg and open it and it is empty (like Jesus' tomb!), bring it to me, and you will get a word from our Word of Wonder! Once all the words have been collected, we will glue them on a poster and decorate it!"**

Allow kids to hunt for the eggs and give reminders of the directions as needed. When all words in the verse have been collected, line up the words in order and glue them on the posterboard. Provide drawing and coloring utensils and stickers so the kids can decorate the poster. As kids decorate, say the verse aloud and see if any of the kids would like to say it aloud. Consider hanging the poster on the wall to display the Word of Wonder.

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

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Can you name something that God has done?**
- **Why is it important for us to think about and remember everything that God has done?**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Laugh and GrowBible

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

**Read pages 284–288 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.**

## Circle Time: Easter Egg Basket Pass

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs of various colors (1 per kid), basket

Before kids arrive, place one plastic Easter egg per kid into a basket.

**For Circle Time today, we are going to pass an Easter basket around the circle. The basket is filled with empty plastic Easter eggs. When the basket gets to you, take one egg. After everyone has an egg, I will ask some discussion questions.**

For each discussion question, name a different color, and the kids who have that color egg will answer. For example, say, "The kids who have an orange egg will answer this question," or "The kids who have a pink egg will answer this question."

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus' body placed after He died?** (*in a tomb*)
- **What did Mary discover when she got to the tomb?** (*The stone was not in front of it, and Jesus was not there.*)
- **Who did Mary see outside the tomb?** (*two angels dressed in white, then Jesus*)
- **What did Jesus show the disciples in the room that night?** (*He showed them where His hands had been hurt to prove to them that it was really Him.*)
- **How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples that day?**
- **Why do you think we celebrate Easter?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus lives?** (*We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!*)

**Mary and the disciples were surprised that Jesus rose from the dead. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it is true! Because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him. Let's pray and thank Him for that now.**

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 to thank God for Jesus' life and resurrection!

## Head to Large Group!

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

### Responding in Worship: Jesus Lives Celebration

**SUPPLIES:** balloons (1 per kid, plus a few extras), party hats (1 per kid)

**RESOURCES:** music from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, inflate one balloon for each kid (and a few extras, in case one pops).

**"We're going to worship Jesus today by having a celebration. Jesus lives! That is the best news ever! Because Jesus lives, we can be saved from sin and live with God forever. That's worth celebrating!"**

**For our celebration today, you will get to wear a party hat.** Pass out a party hat to each kid.

**You will also get a balloon. When you get your balloon, I would like you to hold it with both hands.** Pass out a balloon to each kid.

**Allergy Caution:** Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

**Now that everyone has a balloon, I will count to three, and then all together, we will shout, "Jesus lives!" as we toss our balloons into the air.** Count to three, then shout "Jesus lives!" as you toss a balloon up.

**Now, everyone pick up a balloon, and let's do that again! This time we will shout, "Thank You, God!" Ready? One, two, three, "Thank You, God!"** Toss the balloon as you thank God.

**This is a great celebration, everyone! Now we'll toss our balloons one more time. Get a balloon, and this time, think of something you want to say to God. You can ask Him for something you need or thank Him for something. I will give you a few seconds to think about what you want to say to God.** Give quiet wait time. **Now, when I count to three this time, everyone will say their prayer to God aloud or privately in your mind as you toss your balloon."** Count to three and toss a balloon.

**I'm so thankful we get to celebrate that Jesus lives!"** Consider turning on music from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encouraging the kids to dance and sing as they continue to celebrate.

**Leader Tip:** Consider using balloons that are all the same color.

After kids toss their balloons, this will help minimize any disagreements about which balloon belongs to which person if balloons are all the same color.

**Make It Inclusive!** Some kids with sensory sensitivities do not enjoy loud noises like shouting or popping balloons. If needed, just use a normal speaking volume instead of shouting or have noise-canceling headphones available for kids who may need them.

## Closing Game: Easter Egg Toss

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (1 per every 2 kids)

We are going to play one more game with our Easter eggs! First, find a partner and face each other. Give kids time to find a partner and volunteer to partner with someone if there is an odd number of kids.

**"I will bring you and your partner a plastic Easter egg. When I tell you to start, you will toss the egg to your partner. If the partner catches it, say, "Jesus lives!" then take one small step away from your partner. If you don't catch it, both partners should stay where they are. I will let you know when to make your next toss and, again, if your partner catches it, say, "Jesus lives!" then take one small step away from your partner. If you don't catch it, you both stay where you are. We'll keep tossing eggs back and forth between partners and see which pair of you can catch the egg the most times!"**

**Make It Inclusive!** For a game that's not as physically challenging, allow the kids to sit on the floor and roll the egg back and forth to each other. They can still say, "Jesus lives!" for each turn and scoot away from each other to add some fun.