



LESSON 4 THE RESURRECTION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

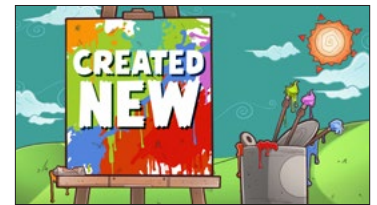
WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Alive!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24

GOD'S BIG STORY: Three days after Jesus' death, God raises Him from the dead. Jesus is no longer dead! He is alive!

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Welcome Question: When has something happened to you that you didn't expect?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God's Big Story: The Resurrection
- LARGE GROUP
- Circle Time: Questions in Eggs
- Craft: Creating Crosses
- Game: Jesus Is Alive Circle Chase



INVITATION

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

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Growing up in Los Angeles, my family had a tradition of taking long, beautiful drives up and down the coast. And back in the day, when we didn't have tablets or TVs in the car, I would spend most of my time talking to God as I stared at the vastness of creation outside the window. In the moments when the sun would shine through the clouds and onto my face, I would imagine God holding me and letting me know how much He loved me. I knew, even at that young age, that the living God of the universe was with me.

Read Luke 24:1–12. What do you notice that you've never noticed before? If you had been with the women at the tomb, what would have surprised you most about that morning?

The greatest difference between many other religions and Christianity is Jesus Christ—the *living* God—crucified, resurrected, ascended into heaven, and returning to earth one day. Without Jesus, and without His resurrection, there is no hope—we would be worshiping a mere, good human. But because God rose Jesus from the dead and He is alive, we can walk with heads and hands held high—we worship a living God! And through the Holy Spirit, that living God lives in us.

Jesus—the *living* God—is with you and in you. What questions do you have for Him today? What words of praise and thanksgiving are on your heart? Tell Him!

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

God's big story reaches its high point when God raises Jesus from the dead—He is risen! Jesus' resurrection is discovered and proclaimed by women, a great honor in a culture that often undervalued women. They proclaim the truth with joy!

WHAT?

Jesus told His disciples He would die and rise again. They wanted Him to be a conquering king who would defeat Rome and restore Israel to power. But Jesus' victory was bigger and better—it brought salvation to the world!

WHERE?

Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea in a tomb near the site of the resurrection. Joseph was accompanied by Nicodemus, the same man who had come to Jesus to hear about how God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son.

WHEN?

Jesus is risen on a Sunday morning, the third day after He died. This would have fallen on the Festival of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9–13). Jesus is the “first fruits” of those who will be resurrected, a further reminder of the hope we have!

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus fulfilled God's promises by dying for our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead, proving that His sacrifice was sufficient and that He is God. Jesus is now exalted to the highest place, and in time, all will acknowledge that He is Lord (Philippians 2:9–11)!

LESSON 4 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Alive!

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready 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!

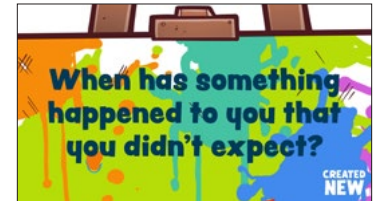
As kids arrive ...

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

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm **curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering 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.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **When something really good happens, who is the first person you tell?**
- **How would you react if you watched something that had died come back to life?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, 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

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Sheets (1/SG)

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ahead of time, print the Word of Wonder Sheets. **Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Our Word of Wonder is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. We've learned Jesus died on the cross so our sins—all the wrong things we think, say and do—can be forgiven. When we're forgiven, we get a new way to live. Jesus makes us new! He makes us new because He loves us.

Hold up the Word of Wonder Sheets. **Look at the picture on the first page: It has a person on it. That's like us. What are we like before**

we follow Jesus? Allow the kids to respond. **Without Jesus, we live for ourselves. We sin and we are far from God. We aren't whole. We were made to be in relationship with God. But when we trust in Jesus, He makes us new. The next page shows a person surrounded by hearts.**

What do you think the hearts are for? Allow the kids to respond. **Jesus loves us! He forgives us and makes our hearts new. Let's say the Word of Wonder together again a few more times. Each time we say, "new," I'll choose someone to hold up the second page with the person surrounded by hearts.** Say the verse several times together and choose a person to hold up the second page when you say "new."

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

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for "Jesus").
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does Jesus do in us?** (Jesus makes us new.)
- **How does it feel to know Jesus died for you because He loves you so much?**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (optional)

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 Luke in the Bible, which is in the New Testament.

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found in the book of Luke.

[Read pages 344-349 in the My First Hands On Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Questions in Eggs

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), plastic eggs (7), permanent marker, basket

RESOURCES: Questions Sheet (1/SG)

Ahead of time, print the Questions Sheet and cut the questions apart. Place one question inside each plastic egg. Use a permanent marker to number the eggs 1–7, corresponding to the number of each question.

Put the eggs in a basket and gather the kids to sit in a circle. **In our story, we learned that Jesus died, but He didn't stay dead. He came back to life. And He's alive now! He died for us because He loves us. We're going to answer some questions using the eggs.** Choose one kid to select any egg and open it, then hand you the paper so you can read the question. Give the kids an opportunity to answer the question. Choose a different kid to select each egg from the basket.

1. Where did Jesus die?
2. Where was Jesus' body put after He died?
3. How many days was Jesus' body in the tomb?
4. What happened to Jesus after the three days?
5. Who found the tomb empty first?
6. How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they found out Jesus was alive?
7. How do you feel knowing Jesus is alive now?

Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 QUESTIONS SHEET
EARLY CHILDHOOD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus die? (on a cross)
2. Where was Jesus' body put after He died? (a tomb)
3. How many days was Jesus' body in the tomb? (three days)
4. What happened to Jesus after the three days? (He came back to life.)
5. Who found the tomb empty first? (the women)
6. How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they found out Jesus was alive?
7. How do you feel knowing Jesus is alive now?

We used eggs to find our questions. The questions were inside the eggs, but nothing was inside the tomb where Jesus' friends put His body. He is alive! Jesus is so powerful that He even has power over death. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Leader Tip: Jesus' death on the cross may be a new concept to some kids and may be familiar to others. Be prepared to engage with those children who have deeper questions about the death and resurrection.

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 God for Jesus and His life. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

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

Craft: Creating Crosses

SUPPLIES: various colors of construction paper (at least 1 sheet per kid), craft sticks (at least 2 per kid), glue, coloring utensils (optional), Easter-themed stickers (optional)

Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life, and we can celebrate! It was sad when Jesus died on the cross. But we can be thankful for the cross because Jesus died to forgive our sins, and He came back to life! We can say, "Thank You" to God for this wonderful gift! We can celebrate Jesus and His resurrection! The word resurrection means He has come back to life. Let's make our own crosses to take home as a reminder of the wonderful gift Jesus gave us: forgiveness and His life!

Give each child a sheet of colored construction paper and two craft sticks. Help them glue the craft sticks onto the paper in the shape of a cross. You can also invite the kids to decorate the paper with coloring utensils and Easter-themed stickers. Make an extra cross to show the kids as an example and also to use in the Closing Game.



Game: Jesus Is Alive Circle Chase

How do you think the women at the tomb and Peter felt when they saw the empty tomb? Allow the kids to respond. **Do you think they were surprised? They saw that Jesus was not dead anymore. He came back to life. Now He lives forever and ever. We can thank God for Jesus!**

Have the kids form a circle and sit down. This game is similar to “Duck, Duck, Goose” except kids will say, “Jesus is alive!” Designate one kid to tap heads as she goes around the circle. Have that kid begin making her way around the circle with this phrase: “Jesus is ... Jesus is alive!” When a kid gets tapped on the word “alive,” he will get up to chase the tapper around the circle one time before it’s his turn to tap others.

Leader Tip: You can keep this game easy and cooperative by avoiding any tagging as part of the chase. It may help not to have a spot in the middle of the circle, as kids this age may become confused or upset by playing the game in a more competitive way.

Make It Inclusive: For kids who aren’t able to run (or choose not to run) or don’t want to have their heads tapped, adapt the game and have them sit in their own area and stand up (or raise their arms up) when they hear the phrase “Jesus is alive!”