



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: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

- Welcome Question: When has something happened to you that you didn't expect?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Posters and Praise Parties!
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Because He Lives



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 worshipping 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)!

Small Group

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

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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 fi st 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 Activity

WORD OF WONDER

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!
—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series talks about being made new! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Display the Word of Wonder Slide. If possible, watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). Practice saying the verse several times together.

Encourage each small group to come up with an original song, rap, or cheer for the Word of Wonder—complete with dance moves or motions. For groups with mostly preteens, let the kids create it themselves; only step in to help if needed. For groups with mostly younger kids, create a simple call-and-response cheer in which you say a line of the verse while doing a motion, like clapping or jumping, and the kids repeat after you. If time allows, invite all the small groups to perform their original numbers for the whole group.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Tell kids that today's story is from the Bible and is found in Luke, the third book of the New Testament. Have kids open their Bible to Luke 24:1. Tell kids the chapter is the big, bold number and the verse is the small number.

This passage describes the discovery of the empty tomb on the morning of Jesus' resurrection. The women expected to find Jesus' body, but instead they were met with a surprising message from angels. Their report sounded unbelievable to the disciples at first. As you read, notice how the people in the story respond to the news that Jesus is alive and why that news changes everything.

Read Luke 24:1–12 together. Next, invite kids to retell the story to a friend.

Elementary Questions

- **How long was Jesus in the tomb?** (three days)
- **Who found the tomb empty?** (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who were visited Jesus' tomb to put spices and perfumes on His body)
- **Who appeared to the women and told them Jesus had come back to life?** (two angels)
- **Do you think the women were surprised by what the angels told them? Why or why not?**
- **The women ran to tell Jesus' other disciples what the angels said. If you were the one to deliver this news to the disciples, what would you say?**
- **Jesus didn't stay dead. He is alive! What does this mean to you? What does it mean for your friends? Your family?**

God raised Jesus from the dead, showing just how powerful He is! Jesus has power even over death. Let's talk with God now in prayer!

Preteen Questions

- **What happened three days after Jesus died and was buried in a tomb?** (He rose from the dead!)
- **Do you think Jesus' rising from the dead was a miracle? Why or why not?** (If needed, remind kids that a miracle is an amazing sign that God is at work.)
- **What did the angels tell the women when they found the tomb empty?** (See Luke 24:5–6.)
- **What's the first thing the women did after they heard this news?** (They ran to tell Jesus' other disciples what the angels had said.)
- **Imagine you had watched as Jesus was buried. What would you think when angels appeared three days later and told you He had come back to life?**
- **Jesus didn't stay dead. He is alive! What does this mean to you? What does it mean for your friends? Your family?**

What an incredible moment it was for Jesus' friends and followers when He rose again. They thought they would never see their best friend again—imagine the joy they must have felt when they realized Jesus was alive! His resurrection shows just how powerful He is! Let's talk with God now in prayer!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit with two friends and share their thanks to God for bringing Jesus back to life and for showing how powerful He is. Kids can pray together in small groups and offer thanks and prayer requests to God.

Head to Large Group!

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

Elementary Responding in Worship: Posters and Praise Parties!

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper, permanent marker (prep only), coloring utensils, masking or painter’s tape, ribbon wands, handheld instruments

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: “He Is Alive” from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Leader Tip: Don’t have ribbon wands? Consider making a set that kids can use whenever they worship. All you need are wooden dowels, ribbons (in multiple colors), hot glue/glue gun (used only by adults), and scissors. Tie several ribbons to the end of each wand and secure them with hot glue.

Ahead of time, make a praise poster by using a permanent marker to write the Wonder Truth—Jesus Is Alive!—across the top of a posterboard or large sheet of butcher paper. At the start of the activity, set out the praise poster along with coloring utensils.

Display the Posters and Praise Parties! Slide and gather the kids together around the “Jesus Is Alive!” praise poster. **Today we learned that three days after Jesus died on the cross, He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive!** Invite kids to share their responses to these questions:



- **How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is alive and will always be alive?**
- **When we choose to follow Jesus, we become God’s kids and get to live with Him forever! What do you want to say to Jesus in response?**

Let’s take a few minutes to decorate our praise poster. You can draw pictures and designs or write words to say, “Wow!” and “Thank You!” to Jesus for His death and resurrection!

Leader Tip: Some kids might be hearing about Jesus’ resurrection for the first time, and others might be understanding Jesus’ love for them in a new and personal way. Be ready to talk with kids about their journey with Jesus and invite their families to join you as you talk and pray together. Refer to the Salvation Path resource for ideas.

As kids decorate the praise poster, invite them to share what they’re writing and drawing. Play music from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage kids to sing along as they work. When the poster is complete, or after several minutes, invite kids to help you tape it to the wall where everyone can see it.

Jesus is alive! The only way Jesus could die and rise again was through the amazing power of God. Jesus would not allow anything to stop His love for us, not even death. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God was making the world right again. Jesus’ death and resurrection gives every person the opportunity to walk with Him every day. We can worship a God who beat sin and death because Jesus is alive! Let’s have a praise party and worship Him!

Play the song “He Is Alive” from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Set out ribbon wands and handheld instruments to use during worship as kids celebrate Jesus’ resurrection!

Make It Inclusive: Offer a quieter area of the room or noise-cancelling headphones for kids who are sensitive to loud noises.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to sing at the top of their lungs as they worship. Giving kids objects to use during worship helps create an atmosphere of joy and excitement and gives kids another way to express their praise to God!

Preteen Responding in Worship: Because He Lives

SUPPLIES: disposable tablecloths; air-dry clay (1 palm-sized amount per kid, about 3–4 ounces); clay carving tool such as wooden skewers, empty ballpoint pens, or dull pencils (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: “Because He Lives” from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, prepare a workspace for kids to create crosses from air dry clay by covering one or more tables with disposable tablecloths.

Gather the kids around the prepared workspace. (Keep the slide on the screen throughout this response time.) Give each kid a palm-sized amount of air-dry clay. Invite them to begin forming a cross from their clay as you talk. When they finish it, they can let it sit and dry. **Today we learned that three days after Jesus died on the cross, He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive!** Invite kids to share their responses to these questions:

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is alive and will always be alive?
- Jesus is alive! What difference does this truth make in your life today?

There’s a classic song titled “Because He Lives” that describes how as Jesus-followers, we can live our lives differently because our God—Jesus—is alive. Point to the slide on the screen as you ask this question:

- How would you fill in this blank: “Because He lives, _____”?

Invite kids to think about their answers before sharing. Consider sharing a couple examples to get them started. For example, “Because He lives, I know God is more powerful than death!” and “Because He lives, I can live with Jesus forever!” Give each kid a clay carving tool (i.e. wooden skewer, empty ballpoint pen, dull pencil). **The cross is recognized around the world as a symbol of Jesus’ death, but we know that Jesus didn’t stay dead! Let’s carve words into our crosses as a reminder that Jesus is alive, and we can live like it!** Invite kids to carve their answer to the question into their cross. How do they fill in the blank, “Because He lives, _____”? If their answers are too long to carve, encourage them to choose just one or two key words to carve. As kids work, play “Because He Lives” from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

When all the kids are finished, invite them to share their crosses and how they filled in the blank, “Because He lives, _____!”

Leader Tip: The air-dry crosses may need some extra time to dry completely (usually about 24–72 hours). If it’s feasible, keep the crosses at church and send them home with kids the next time you see them.