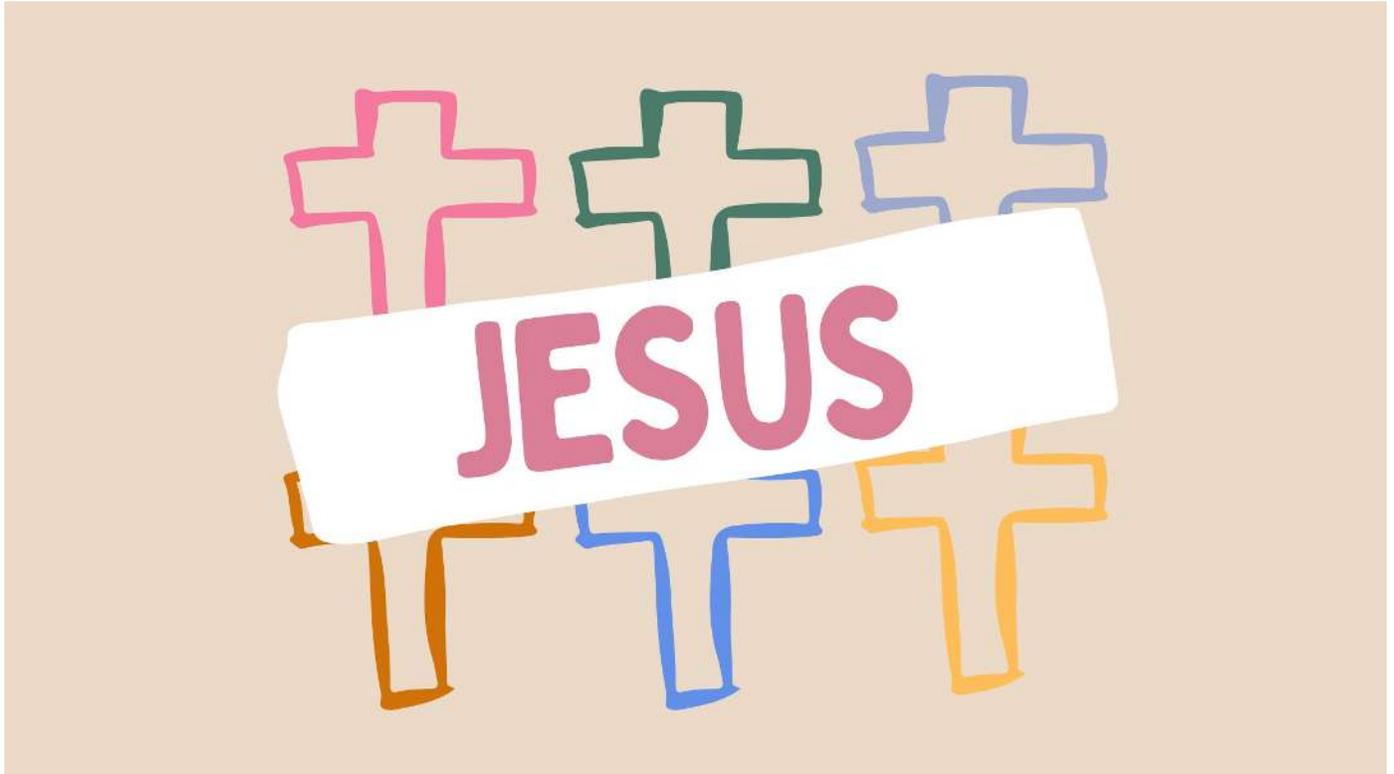


Kids Club

Leader Guide

Apr
Week 3

April 19, 2026



Series Overview

This series will focus on the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior and what it means for those of us who follow Him. Kids will learn that Jesus came to Earth to save people from their sins and that Jesus actually traded places with people and gave them His righteousness. Kids will also learn that God's plan was still working while Jesus was dead in the tomb and that Jesus was resurrected so that we could join God's family.

Lesson Overview

Today's lesson is all about the days that Jesus was in the tomb. We will read the prophecy from Isaiah 53 about Jesus being laid to rest in a rich man's tomb, and then see the events unfold in Mark 15. We will finish off the lesson by remembering that God always has a plan, and He is working for our good.

Lesson 3 Bible Verses:

Isaiah 53:9-10, Mark 15:42-46

Bottom Line:

God's plan was still working while Jesus was dead in the tomb.

Memory Verse (Series):

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NLT)

Schedule

1. Welcome & Connection (10 minutes)

Kids check in, play together, and connect with leaders. Encourage older kids to include younger ones. Give prompts for questions the teacher can ask to build relationships. Lessons 2-4: review the previous lesson's take home challenge.

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 minutes)

Short lesson with Scripture and discussion. This should be very engaging, with lots of opportunity for movement and kids participating.

3. Review & Practice (10 minutes)

Practice engaging with Scripture from lesson and series memory verse.

4. Prayer & Worship Group Activity (15 minutes)

Reinforce the truth that God has a plan through creative, hands-on and meaningful discussion. Ideally kids are working in pairs or groups. Either a game, craft, or other activity. Incorporate a prayer or worship practice.

6. Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 minutes)

Review the main point, play together, and give a take-home challenge.

SUPPLIES

1. Welcome & Connection

- Items for structured free play
- Upbeat worship music (playlist or speaker)

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus

- Bibles

3. Review & Practice

- Bible (leader)

4. Prayer & Worship Activity

- Choose a destination to walk the kids to in your room.

Welcome & Connection (10 min)

As kids arrive, invite them into free play (coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.

Hi, friends! I'm really glad you're here for Kids Club today. Kids Club is a place where we have fun, build friendships, and learn about Jesus together. Today we're going to talk about a part of the story that could feel really confusing, but God was still working.

Connection Prompts:

- What's something that didn't go how you expected this week?
- Do you like making plans or just going with the flow?
- What's something you needed help with this week? Who helped you?
- What is faith? How do you show you have faith?

Give a two minute warning before transition.

Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 min)

Gather kids around and have them postured to listen well.

We learned last week that Jesus had never sinned, but He traded places with us and took the punishment for our sin. Hundreds of years before Jesus walked on Earth, God told Isaiah that Jesus would never do anything wrong, but He was still going to die for our sins. He also told Isaiah that Jesus was going to be buried in a rich man's grave. We know that God had a plan all along because He told people what would happen. Listen to this.

Read Isaiah 53:9.

God had a good plan, and Jesus was part of it. But how do you think you would have felt if you were there? Imagine you were one of Jesus' friends and you thought everything was going right, and then He died on the cross. What do you think you would have felt?

Allow kids to express how they think they would have felt. Encourage them to make facial expressions to show their feelings.

Yeah, I would feel scared, confused, and so, so sad. That's how I imagine Jesus' friends and family were feeling when He died. I don't think they knew yet that **God's plan was still working while Jesus was dead in the tomb. Let's see what Jesus's friends and family did after He died.**

Read Mark 15:42–46

Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man and one of Jesus's followers and friends. He was probably so sad that Jesus was dead! But Joseph wanted to honor Jesus, so he was going to bury Jesus in his own, fancy tomb. Did you notice that this was just like God said it would be? Remember hundreds of years before when He told Isaiah that Jesus would be buried in a rich man's tomb?! God's plan is working, even while Jesus is dead!

Sometimes God's plan is surprising, and we don't see how it can work out, but God always has a plan and it's good. God doesn't just have a plan for Jesus, He also has a plan for me and for you, too!

God is so good at making plans, even when hard things happen, or I make a mistake, or maybe someone makes a bad choice that could hurt me, God can bring something good out of those things as part of His plan for me.

Have you ever had a day where something went wrong? Sometimes something feels bad or confusing but later you realize something good was happening.

Give QUICK example and then see if kids can think of any examples themselves.

Like you're getting really hungry and your parents haven't even started cooking yet. But then you realize you're getting to go to a restaurant. Or you had a bad dream and woke up in the middle of the night but remembered you forgot to take your clothes out for the next day.

Friends, God always has a good plan for you, even when you don't see it happening. Jesus's death was the scariest, hardest thing that ever happened. But we know that God's plan was still working while Jesus was dead in the tomb, and His plan is always working for us, even on our hardest days. Sometimes when we look around at just what our eyes can see, we miss out on noticing and remembering that God has BIG perfect plans for our lives. Let's say our bottom line together: **God's plan was still working while Jesus was dead in the tomb.**

Review & Practice (10 min)

Old or New Testament?

Split kids into mixed-age pairs or trios. Make sure older kids help younger kids.

We're going to practice finding where today's story came from. If you don't already know where Isaiah and Mark are in the Bible, let's start with some clues. Which one happened before Jesus was born on Earth? So, will that be in the Old Testament or New Testament? Which one tells what happened after Jesus died? Will it be in the Old Testament or New Testament?

- Isaiah 53
- Mark 15

The Bible fits together and God had a plan the whole time.

Memory Verse: Motion Verse

Before we practice, let's see who remembers the verse! Give each kid a chance to show what they know. Add motions if anyone still needs practice.

- "For this is how God loved the world:" - arms wide
- "He gave his one and only Son," - point up
- "so that everyone who believes in him" - point to others
- "will not perish" - shake head
- "but have eternal life." - arms up
- "John 3:16." - mime opening the Bible by opening and closing palms

Repeat 2–3 rounds, a little faster each time.

Prayer & Worship Activity (15 min)

Big and Small Things:

We're going to think about two kinds of things in our lives, big things and small things. When I say something **BIG**, stand up tall. When I say something **SMALL**, crouch down low.

- *Starting a new school*
- *Losing a toy*
- *Family changes*
- *Someone not sharing*
- *Making a new friend*
- *Losing a tooth, etc.*

God cares about **ALL** of those. Nothing is too big or too small for God. God loved the world so much, He made a big, perfect plan to save us. He even planned where Jesus would be buried. That means God cares about the big things... and the small things. And He has a plan for your life too. Even when we don't know what God is doing in our lives, we can still trust Him. Let me show you.

Follow the Path:

Have kids stand up and follow you to a simple destination. Lead them all kinds of unpredictable ways as you walk around your space. Straight, zig-zag, stop suddenly, turn around abruptly, etc

Did that feel unpredictable? Sometimes life feels confusing like that. Jesus' friends might have felt that way when He was in the tomb. But God's plan was still working. We're going to practice a simple prayer you can use anytime.

Teach the Breath Prayer

When you breathe in, think: 'God, You are working.' When you breathe out, think: 'I trust You.'

Practice together several times, slowly.

Breathe in... God, You are working...Breathe out... I trust You...

Now think about something that feels confusing or hard for you. Talk to God about that while you breathe.

After a few moments, pray aloud over the kids.

Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 min)

Today we talked about the time after Jesus died. His friends were sad, confused, and thought everything was over. Jesus was placed in a tomb, just like God had said would happen long before. Even though it looked like nothing was happening God's plan was still working. And God is still working in your life too, even when you don't see it.

- *What do you remember most from today?*
- *How do you think Jesus' friends felt?*
- *Have you ever had a day that didn't go how you planned?*
- *What does it mean that God is still working?*
- *Who did you help or include today?*

Weekly Challenge

This week, when something doesn't go your way, stop and say: 'God is still working.' Talk to God about it instead of getting frustrated.

Closing Prayer:

Invite a kid to pray over the group.

Invite kids into free play (coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.

Optional Closing Game: Would You Rather...

Have kids move to different sides of the room based on which option they'd rather do:

- *Plan a surprise or be surprised?*
- *Would you rather be one of the 12 disciples or one of the shepherds at Jesus' birth?*
- *Slide down a rainbow or jump on the clouds?*
- *Be Daniel in the lions' den or Jonah in the whale?*
- *Never have to brush your teeth or never have to take a bath or shower?*
- *Be in the ark with Noah or cross the Red Sea with Moses?*
- *Fight Goliath with a sling or walk on water with Jesus?*
- *Say today's Bottom Line or our Bible Verse? (Have both groups do it!)*