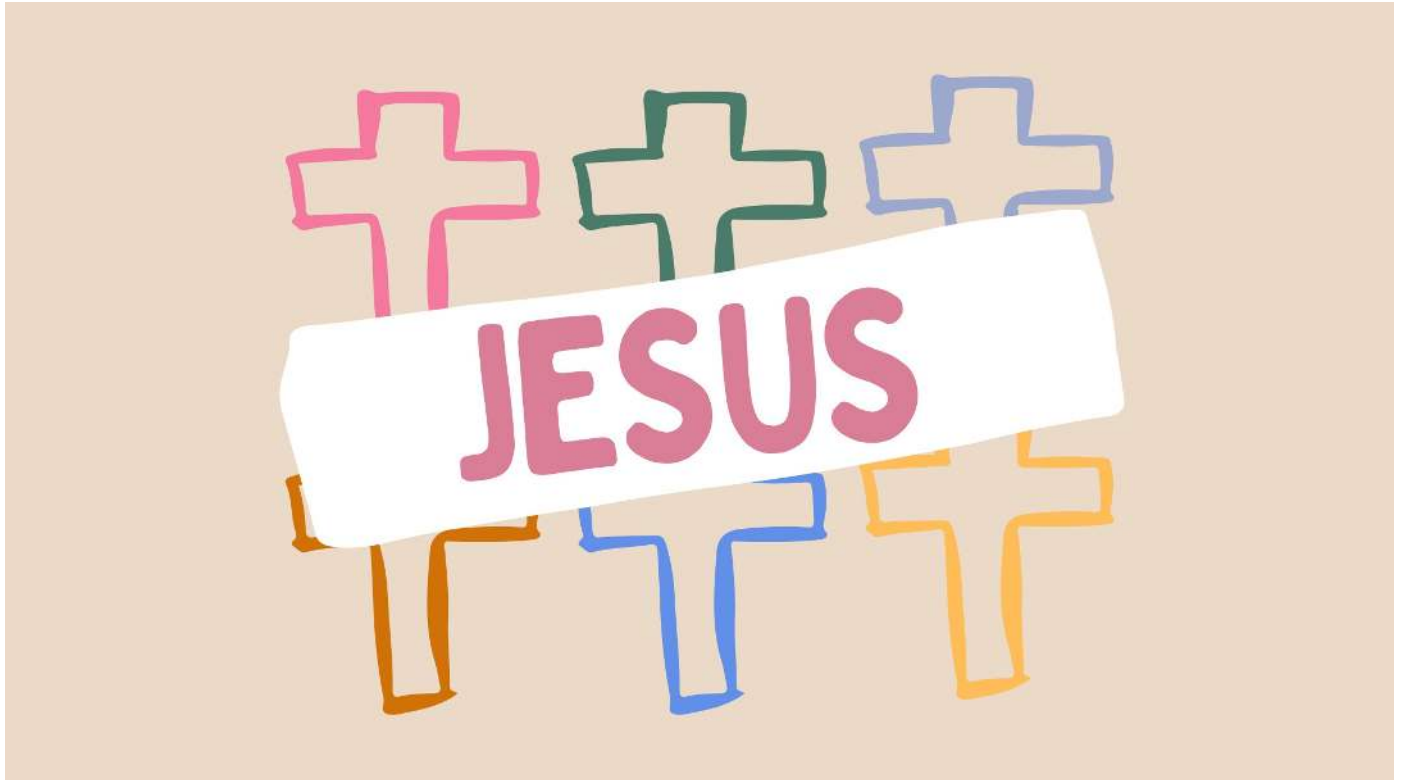


Kids Club

Leader Guide

Apr
Week 4

April 26, 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

This final lesson is about the Resurrection. We will read about how the stone was rolled away in Matthew 28, revealing an empty tomb, and how Jesus's disciples were surprised and delighted by His appearance and His presence in John 20. We reflect on how all who believe will live forever and not perish.

Lesson 4 Bible Verses:

Matthew 20:17-19, Matthew 28:1-10

Bottom Line:

Jesus came, died for our sins, and was resurrected so we could join God's family.

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
- Identify an item to go “missing”. It should be something the kids would recognize.

3. Review & Practice

- Bible (leader)

4. Prayer & Worship Activity

- Resurrection Freeze Dance needs worship music that you can stop and start.

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.

I'm so glad you're here today! This is a BIG celebration day because something amazing happened in our Bible story. We're going to have fun, move a lot, and learn something that changes everything for each one of us!

Connection Prompts:

- What's something that makes you REALLY excited?
- Have you ever been surprised in a really good way? What happened?
- If you could celebrate anything today, what would it be?
- Who is someone you love being on a team with?
- How did your family celebrate Easter last month?

Give a two minute warning before transition.

Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 min)

Prep: Hide something obvious that the kids will definitely notice is missing when you call attention to it (Bibles, a snack, the clock, etc).

Okay... wait. Something is not right. There's supposed to be something here and it's gone.

Let kids react.

Who took it? Where did it go? Is this a prank?

Lean into confusion as you look at where the item is supposed to be.

This is weird. This is not how it's supposed to go. What are ya'll feeling right now? Confused? Curious? Can you imagine how Jesus' friends felt when they went to the tomb and found it empty? Before Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the tomb, He told His friends that He would be resurrected and come back to life again. Let's read what Jesus told His friends.

Read Matthew 20:17-19

So, before Jesus was ever arrested, beaten up, killed, or buried, He told His friends what would happen. He was trying to help them be encouraged and have hope even when things got really scary and they weren't sure what was happening. Jesus wanted them to know that God had a plan.

Now we're going to act out what happened in Matthew 28 verses 1-10 when they got to the tomb.

- Choose 2–3 kids = tomb (stand close together)
- Choose 1 kid = stone (stand in front, arms wide)
- Choose 2 kids = "Marys"
- Choose 1 kid = "angel"
- Optional: 2 kids = "guards"
- Everyone else gathers around

Lead kids to follow you by acting out the motions dramatically until they join along.

Early in the morning, Jesus' friends walked to the tomb...

Tiptoe in place

They felt sad because Jesus had died.

Make sad faces

Suddenly, EARTHQUAKE!

Kids stomp loudly

An angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away

Have the angel step forward and move the stone kid aside dramatically

The guards were so afraid they fell down like they fainted!

Guards fall

The angel said 'Don't be afraid. Jesus isn't here. He has risen just like He said!

Come see the place where He lay and then go quickly and tell the disciples. So the women looked and the tomb was EMPTY!

Have the Marys look at the empty space between the "tomb" kids.

Then they ran to tell the disciples fast!

Marys run in place.

And then Jesus met them! They stopped and worshiped Him! And then He told them to go on and tell His disciples! Let's all shout JESUS is ALIVE!

Repeat 2–3 times. Return the missing item if the kids haven't found it yet. Then have all kids sit down.

When Jesus was resurrected, it was because He had finished His job of taking care of sin and making a way for us to be close to God's family again. This is the best news ever. **Jesus came, died for our sins, and resurrected so we could join God's family.**

Yay! So why does it matter for us today that Jesus is alive? Jesus came back to life so we could be part of God's family. Because of Jesus, your sin is forgiven, you can be close to God, and you belong with Him. You don't have to earn it. You don't have to be perfect. You just say yes to Jesus and you're in God's family!

Let's say our bottom line together: **Jesus came, died for our sins, and resurrected so we could join God's family.**

Review & Practice (10 min)

So here's the real question, if Jesus did all of that to bring you into God's family what do you want your relationship with Him to look like? Do you want to know Him more? Talk to Him more? Spend time with Him? Because He wants that with you. Let's say our Memory Verse together:

Memory Verse: Meaning

- *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*

This verse is a beautiful promise to us. But that promise assumes something, it assumes that we love God so much that we want to spend eternal life with Him, too. But, if you don't want to spend time with God now, He is not going to force you to spend time with Him for all eternity. We want you to get to know God and enjoy being with Him now and then forever.

Prayer & Worship Activity (15 min)

Activity: Come Close to God

Because of Jesus, we don't have to stay far away from God anymore. We get to come close. We're going to practice that right now by moving.

Have kids spread out.

Start by standing far away from me. This is what it's like when we feel far from God. We may be distracted, busy, or just not thinking about Him.

I'm going to say a sentence. After each one, take one step closer.

Pause between each

Jesus, thank You for loving me.

(step)

Thank You for dying to take the punishment for my sins.

(step)

Thank You for coming back to life.

(step)

Thank You that when I choose You, I get to be part of Your family.

(step) Now kids should be close together.

Now you're close. This is what Jesus made possible. Right now, quietly in your own words, tell God one thing.

- **Tell Him something you're thankful for.**
- **Or tell Him you want to know Him more.**

(Allow 10–20 seconds of quiet)

Repeat after me:

God, You are with me.

(kids repeat)

I want to know You more.

(repeat)

Help me spend time with You. Amen

Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 min)

Today we learned the BEST news ever. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was buried in a tomb. But He didn't stay there, He came back to life! That means God's plan worked perfectly. Because Jesus is alive, we can be part of God's family forever.

Discussion Questions

- *What happened at the tomb?*
- *How do you think Jesus' friends felt?*
- *Why is it important that Jesus is alive?*
- *What does it mean to be part of God's family?*

Weekly Challenge

This week, do something to spend time with God on purpose when you are not at church.

Closing Prayer:

Invite a kid to pray aloud for 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: Resurrection Freeze Dance

We are celebrating Jesus's resurrection! Resurrection is a big word that means to come back to life after being dead. Today, we learned about Jesus coming back to life. Knowing that Jesus is alive makes me want to dance! Let's play a dance game. I'm going to start the music, and you all are going to start dancing. When I stop the music, you have to freeze right away! If you are still moving after I stop the music, you are out! Everyone stays still, just like Jesus's body was still in the tomb. When I push play again, you can start dancing again, just like Jesus was resurrected and came back to life!

Gather kids around and play a quick round or two of "Resurrection Freeze Dance".

That was fun but it reminds us of something real. Jesus died...and then came back to life. What's that called? Resurrection!