

LIFE POINT

Jesus is alive!

JESUS IS ALIVE!



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God sent Jesus because He loves us.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 20:1-18

UNIT VERSE

God loved us and sent His Son. 1 John 4:10

WEEKLY VERSE

Jesus is alive.
Matthew 28:7

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

April 5



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following page.)

Romans 6:23 tells us, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The life of Mary Magdalene reflects this truth beautifully. While the details of her life are limited, all four Gospel writers featured her in their narratives. Her name indicated she was from the area known as Magdala (MAG duh luh), located near the Sea of Galilee. Both Mark and Luke described how she was possessed by seven demons (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2). Based on the examples of other demon-possessed people in Scripture, Mary Magdalene likely knew the weight of sin and darkness (Mark 1:25-27; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 9:37-42).

Then she met Jesus, and He completely changed her life! Instead of serving the kingdom of darkness, she began serving the kingdom of light. She became part of Jesus’ ministry by traveling with Him and supporting Him (Luke 8:1-3). While other disciples abandoned Jesus, she stayed faithful to the end. She watched the horrors of Jesus’ crucifixion (Matthew 27:56). She was one of the first to return to the tomb to care for Jesus’ body.

Jesus honored her faithfulness by appointing her as the first person to share the gospel message. A formerly demon-possessed woman was the one Jesus commissioned to go and tell the others about His resurrection (John 20:17). Again, she faithfully executed her task to serve her risen Lord. Mary Magdalene traded the seriousness of sin for the righteousness of God. Her story demonstrated the great love of our living God!

There is no sin too deep that God cannot forgive. There is no story too dark that God cannot redeem. Read Colossians 2:13-14; Romans 5:6-11; 1 Peter 2:24-25; and Hebrews 9:13-14. Take a few minutes with each passage and ponder its meaning.

As you pray this week, confess your sin to God. Consider writing a list of those sins on paper. Speak them aloud to God in confession. Write the word *forgiven* over each sin. Shred the paper or tear it up and throw it away as a symbol of God’s complete and total forgiveness. Spend time thanking and praising God for Jesus’ sacrifice and the work of the cross.

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GROUP TIME

* Praise the Lord song

- * **Celebrate and sing.** Distribute a ribbon or streamer to each child. Lead them to sing “Let’s All Celebrate Jesus” and wave streamers to celebrate that Jesus is alive. Open a Bible to 1 John 4:10. Read the verse aloud.
- * **Learn the Life Point.** Lead a child to attach the Life Point add-on to the Life Point poster. Say the Life Point. Tell the kids that today is a special day to celebrate that Jesus is alive! State that God sent Jesus because He loves us.
- * **Tell the Bible story.** Open the Bible to John 20. Mention that all of the stories in the Bible are true. Say that even though the Bible tells about several women who went to visit Jesus’ tomb, today’s Bible story will focus on one specific woman—Mary Magdalene. Point to one of the women in the teaching picture as you tell the Bible story.

JESUS IS ALIVE!

—Based on John 20:1-18

Early in the morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

When she got to the tomb, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the opening. Mary ran to find Peter and John, two of Jesus’ disciples.

“They have taken Jesus from the tomb,” Mary said. “We don’t know where they have put Him!”

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside. He saw strips of cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ body. Peter went in the tomb and saw the strips of cloth, too.

Peter and John went away, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. Mary bent over to look inside the tomb. She saw two angels sitting where Jesus’ body had been.

“Why are you crying?” the angels asked.

“Someone took Jesus away. I don’t know where He is,” Mary said.

Mary turned around and saw a man standing nearby. “Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” He asked.

Mary thought the man was the gardener. She said, “If you have taken Jesus away, please tell me where He is.”

“Mary,” the man said. Mary Magdalene realized the man was Jesus. Jesus said, “Go and tell My disciples that you have seen Me.”

Mary went to the disciples. She said, “I have seen Jesus!”

- * **Review the Bible story.** Invite a child to gently toss a button on the Review Question Board. Ask the question on or near the letter where the button lands. Continue until all questions are answered.
- * **Learn the Bible verse.** Lead a child to open the Bible to the verse strip. Read Matthew 28:7 aloud. Invite the preschoolers to repeat the verse using different voices—whisper voices, loud voices, and so on.
- * **Wrap it up and pray.** Show the “Jesus Is Alive!” video. Pray, thanking God for sending His Son and for the truth that Jesus is alive!



CHOOSE YOUR TIME

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.

› Pack Items:

- 15: “Weekly Verses”
- 23: “Word Strips” (John)
- 29: “Unit 2 Door Poster”
- 30: “Unit 2 Life Point Poster”
- 31: “Unit 2 Life Point Add-ons” (session 1)
- 32: “Review Question Board”

› Teaching Picture 6

› Music

› Videos

› Bible, scissors, ribbons or streamers, large button

› Display the Unit 2 Door Poster near the entrance of your room. Place the verse strip at Matthew 28:7 in a Bible. Place the John word strip at John 20. Hang the Unit 2 Life Point Poster on a focal wall. Cut apart the Unit 2 Life Point Add-ons. Lay the Review Question Board on the floor.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

FIND JESUS

Separate the Word Strips. Hide the Jesus word strips in a designated area of the room.

- Review the Bible story with the preschoolers. Remind them that Mary Magdalene could not find Jesus when she went to the tomb because the tomb was empty. Say that Mary Magdalene thought someone had taken Jesus' body.
- Guide the boys and girls to look for the word strips hidden in the room. When a child finds a card, invite everyone to shout: "Jesus is alive!" Hide the paper strips and play again as time allows.
- Mention that Jesus was not lost or hidden. Jesus is alive! (*Games*)

SEEK AND FIND

Make copies of Scavenger Hunt Checklists (session 1), one per child. Cut out the Scavenger Hunt Pictures (session 1) and hang them around the room.

- Display the missions pictures. Talk about the work that Luis and Nohemi Sanchez do in Missouri. Say that missionaries like the Sanchezes tell people the good news that Jesus is alive!
- Give each child a scavenger hunt checklist and a crayon. Invite the boys and girls to go around the room and look for the pictures, then check them off their lists as they find them.
- Lead the children to talk about the different pictures they found and how they relate to the Bible story. (*Puzzles*)

COLOR AND TOSS

Place three hula hoops on the floor. Write Jesus is alive! on paper, one word per sheet. Place one word in each hula hoop.

- Lead the children to color their coloring pages. Review the Bible story as they color.
- Invite the kids to stand in front of the hula hoops. Point to the words in the hoops and say: "Jesus is alive!" Instruct a child to toss a beanbag into a hula hoop. Say the word on the paper in the hoop where the beanbag lands and lead the child to repeat it. Encourage the preschoolers to cheer for each other as they play.

CLEAN UP

- Play "Clean Up the Room" as the boys and girls clean up the room. Encourage them to work together to pick up their activities.

› Pack Item:

23: "Word Strips" (Jesus)

› Pack Items:

33: "Scavenger Hunt Checklists" (session 1)

34: "Scavenger Hunt Pictures" (session 1)

› Printables:

"Unit 2 Missions"

› Scissors, tape, crayons

› Printables:

"Jesus Is Alive!" Coloring Page

› Crayons, 3 hula hoops, paper, beanbags, marker

› Music



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

› Kids Activity Page

- › White cardstock, crayons, painter's tape, marker, scissors

› Teaching Picture 6

- › Blocks, cardboard, scissors

› Printables: "Allergy Alert"

- › Assorted rocks (various sizes, shapes, colors, etc.); magnifying glasses

Note: Make sure not to use rocks that could pose a choking hazard. Supervise kids closely.

› Pack Item:

15: "Weekly Verses"

› Music

- › Bible, toy instruments

COLOR A CROSS

Make a cross using painter's tape on a sheet of cardstock, one per child.

- Assist the boys and girls in completing their Kids Activity Pages. Talk about the teaching picture on the back. Remark that Jesus is alive!
- Say that before Jesus was placed in the tomb, He died on a cross. Three days after Jesus was placed in the tomb, God made Him alive again.
- Instruct the children to color their sheets of paper with crayons. Encourage them to color the entire paper using bright colors. Carefully peel off the tape once a child finishes to reveal a cross.
- Offer to write the Life Point at the bottom of each child's paper.
- Comment that the crosses can remind them that Jesus is alive! *(Art)*

BUILD A TOMB

Cut a large circle out of cardboard to make a stone for the block tomb.

- Display the teaching picture. Ask the preschoolers to describe what is happening in the picture. Point out the tomb.
- Lead the boys and girls to build a tomb with blocks. Assist them in creating a structure with an opening at the front. Use the "stone" (cardboard circle) to cover the opening.
- As the children build, review the Bible story. Remind them that when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, the large stone that was covering the entrance was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. *(Blocks)*

EXAMINE ROCKS

Post an Allergy Alert.

- Say that Jesus was buried in a tomb. Mention that when Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb where Jesus was buried, she saw that the large stone had been moved, and the tomb was empty.
- Invite the kids to examine various rocks. Demonstrate how to use magnifying glasses to get a closer look at the details of the rocks. Lead the children to talk about how the rocks are similar and different.
- Remark that a large stone was placed at the entrance to Jesus' tomb, but this stone was rolled away because Jesus was no longer dead—Jesus is alive! *(Nature)*

CELEBRATE JESUS

Place the verse strip at Matthew 28:7 in a Bible.

- Invite a child to open the Bible to the verse strip at Matthew 28:7. Read the verse aloud. Invite the children to repeat the verse several times.
- Mention that when Mary Magdalene saw Jesus, she ran and told the disciples that Jesus is alive. Say that this is news worth celebrating.
- Distribute instruments to the kids and gather them in a line. Play "Let's All Celebrate Jesus" as the preschoolers walk around the room. Encourage them to celebrate Jesus by playing their instruments and singing praises to Him. *(Music)*