



** story
"Big Picture" on screen*

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to ~~collect the offering~~, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What’s something amazing you have seen? Why was it amazing? Did you want to share what you saw with others? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Alive!” activity page.

SAY “Jesus is alive today! Today, we will learn that after Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to many people and proved He is alive.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: NOTHING TO FEAR**

Before the session, use painter’s tape to create two 8–10 square hopscotch grids and label two beanbags with the word Fear using painter’s tape as well. Form kids into two teams and direct them to line up behind a hopscotch grid. (Tip: Consider playing outside with chalk if the weather is nice.)

Direct the first kid from each team to toss the beanbag on a square, then hop on one foot down the grid and back while hopping over the square with the beanbag. As an additional challenge, consider having teams race against each other.

SAY “Sometimes, we all face certain fears. But fear shouldn’t keep us from trusting God. In today’s Bible story, the disciples felt fear when they saw Jesus after He had risen from the dead. They thought He was a ghost! But we’ll learn how Jesus told them not to fear and to trust Him as their risen Savior.”

☐ **OPTION 2: WHERE IS IT?**



Display three plastic cups on a table. Invite kids to sit in front of the table. Present a small object to the kids such as a ball, coin, or candy. Tell kids that you will place the object under one of the cups and then move the cups around. Explain that they must determine where the object is after you’ve moved the cups around. Consider moving the cups slowly for the first couple of rounds. Then increase your speed for the next few rounds. After each round, ask kids to guess which cup the object is under. Consider inviting several kids to move the cups around as well.

SAY “It was sometimes tricky to find the object! Since the object was hidden, knowing exactly where to look for it was challenging. Today, we’ll learn that unlike the hidden object you tried to find, Jesus didn’t hide from His followers after His resurrection. Jesus is alive, and He appeared to over 500 people who saw Him with their own eyes.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY 🗨️ Hi, kids! I'm [your name], and I'm so excited you are here today! Did you bring your Bible with you? Hold up your Bible and show me! [Distribute Bibles to any kids who need one.] The Bible teaches us how God gave His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and give us new life.

Today, we are learning from the New Testament. In our story, Jesus had already died on the cross and risen again. Jesus' resurrection was no secret. For 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples and hundreds of others so that they would know He is alive. Jesus wants everyone to know Him, trust Him, and live for Him. Let's learn how Jesus appeared to His disciples and helped them understand that He had a job for them to do. 🗨️

* For God so loved the world

Worship:

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY 🗨️ Before we read our Bible story, let's take some time to learn our big picture question and answer. Remember that our big picture question and answer helps us learn more about God and His Son, Jesus. Our big picture question is, How do we know that God wants us to know Him? Can you ask the question? [Allow responses.] How would you answer this question? [Allow responses.]

Now let's learn the answer: We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word. Repeat the answer after me: We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word. [Allow responses.] We'll learn more about how we can know God through Jesus, who is the Word of God, and through the Bible, God's written Word to us. 🗨️

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY 🗨️ We have learned that Jesus loves us so much that He was arrested, falsely accused, and crucified on the cross to save us from sin. But then He was raised from the dead! Jesus is alive! Jesus lives forever to reign over the universe as the King of kings.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He showed His followers that He is alive by visiting them, eating with them, and continuing to teach them. Let's learn how Jesus appeared to His disciples and taught them about His mission for them. 🗨️

Not available yet...



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES

“On the first day of the week, in the evening, Jesus’ disciples gathered together in a house in Jerusalem. News about Jesus was spreading. Some of Jesus’ followers reported that Jesus wasn’t dead anymore. Two of Jesus’ followers told the other disciples that Jesus had appeared to them on the road to Emmaus. They had traveled with Him and once they reached their destination, they invited Him to stay with them. They had recognized Him when He broke bread with them.

As the disciples talked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace to you!” He said.

The disciples were surprised and terrified. They couldn’t believe their eyes! Was this really Jesus? The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost.

“Why are you afraid?” Jesus asked. “It’s Me! Why do you doubt? Look at Me and touch Me. You can see that I’m not a ghost. A ghost does not have flesh and bones like I do.”

Jesus showed the disciples His hands and His side. They saw the holes in Jesus’ hands and in His side. It seemed too good to be true, but Jesus really was alive!

“Do you have anything here to eat?” Jesus asked. The disciples gave Jesus some fish, and He ate it.

Jesus talked to the disciples and explained the Bible to them. He helped them understand how the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms told about Him. The Scriptures said the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. Then Jesus told the disciples that they had a job to do. The disciples needed to tell other people to repent from their sin and be forgiven.

Christ Connection: For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to over 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Act it out: Perform the actions of Jesus as you tell kids the story. Remind kids that Jesus was not a ghost; He had a real physical body when He rose from the dead.

Use facial expressions: Express the emotions of the disciples as you tell the story.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗣️ Our story from Luke 24 happened after Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. He had already appeared to some people like Mary Magdalene as well as two of His followers on the road to Emmaus. Then Jesus appeared to all His disciples, except Thomas. Jesus knew that they would be afraid when they saw Him. He didn't want them to be scared or believe that He is a ghost. How did He prove this? **[Allow responses.]** He showed them His hands and sides, and He invited them to touch Him.

How else did Jesus prove He is alive? Did He eat something like we do? **[Allow responses.]** He asked His disciples for food, and they gave Him fish to eat. Jesus was hungry! His resurrected body had real flesh and bones and needed food, just like our bodies.

After Jesus ate, He spent time with the disciples and explained the Bible to them. Just like we study the truths of God's Word together each week, Jesus taught how all the Scriptures in the Old Testament pointed to Him as the Messiah. Jesus also told them they had a job to do. What was the job Jesus gave them? **[Allow responses.]** He told the disciples that they are to share the good news of the gospel with others. Jesus gives all of His followers, including us, this same job. We must tell everyone the importance of repenting of sin and receiving forgiveness through faith in Jesus. 🗣️

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 🗣️ For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to over 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him. 🗣️

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)



Show the "Unit 28, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we know that Jesus is alive today?
2. How can you know and have a relationship with Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)



Display a map of the United States and point to Denver, Colorado.

SAY 🗣️ Denver, Colorado, is a beautiful city with the Rocky Mountains in view. Many people move to the area to enjoy its beauty and participate in its fun outdoor adventures, such as snow skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, kayaking, hiking, and riding mountain and road bikes. 🗣️

Point out that Denver is a large city with about 2.9 million people. Tell kids that it is the 15th largest city in the United States. Explain how more churches are needed to reach the many people living in Denver. Tell kids that Dave Howeth, Denver's Send City missionary, worked in Denver as a church planter strategist in 2007. Share how he worked with other organizations for three years then returned in 2012 to serve as a missionary in Denver.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

* Play the missions video. Then close in prayer, asking God to help more churches partner with the missionaries and churches in Denver. Ask God to send more missionaries to start more churches in Denver and tell more people about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

* Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 17:3 together.

SAY “When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed God’s power over death. Anyone who trusts in Him will be raised from death to life. Our key passage helps us remember that we can have eternal life through faith in Jesus.”

Write the key passage in three phrases on a dry erase board. Then, guide kids to memorize each phrase by reading it aloud and having them repeat it after you a few times. Continue having kids repeat each phrase several times. Then lead kids to say the entire key passage together while you point to each phrase.

* Lead kids to sing “This Is Eternal Life (John 17:3).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “God, thank You so much for Jesus—His life, death, and resurrection. Help us put our trust in Him and experience forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 24. Consider allowing kids to use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke or lead kids to find the New Testament and then turn to the third book. Remind kids that the first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and teach us about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 24:45-49 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Israel Map.

SAY 🌟 Jesus taught His disciples that the Old Testament was written to show us God's plan to save sinners through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Then He told them that they are witnesses of all Jesus said and did. Because they had seen Jesus and heard His teachings, they could go out and tell others everything Jesus did.

We have God's Word so we can be His witnesses too. When we trust in Jesus, His Spirit lives in us and gives us power to do the job He gave His followers. We show we love God when we tell other people about His love for them through Jesus. 🌟

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🌟 What was surprising about how Jesus appeared to His disciples? Why do you think they were afraid? 🌟

Discuss how Jesus suddenly stood among them and did not enter through the door. Tell kids that just like Jesus had power over the storm before His death, His resurrected body also has supernatural power to move about the earth. Remind kids that Jesus greeted His disciples with peace and did not want to frighten them.

SAY 🌟 Why would Jesus show the disciples His hands and His side? 🌟

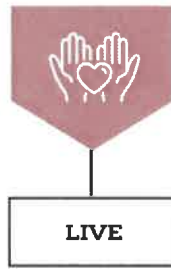
Point out that Jesus' resurrected body still has the scars from being nailed to the cross and being pierced in the side. Discuss how these scars on His body helped prove that He really died and rose again.

SAY 🌟 Jesus sent His disciples to tell others about Him. What is something you could tell a friend or family member about Jesus? 🌟

Answers will vary. Help kids understand that we can tell others many truths about Jesus such as His love for them, how He died for our sins, how He rose again, or how He is coming back to reign as King one day. Encourage kids to think about the Bible stories they've learned and how they can share these stories with others as well.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: SNOW MUCH FUN**



Tell kids that Denver, Colorado, is ninth on the list of US cities with the most snowfall in a year. Explain that Denver averages about 57 inches of snow each winter.

Form kids into two teams and provide teams with either white paper or white socks to form “snowballs.” Designate a side of the room to each team. Instruct kids to throw their “snowballs” at the other team, aiming below the head. Tell kids that if they get hit with a “snowball” they are out. Continue until one team remains. Lead kids to help pick up the paper or socks.

SAY “Next time you see or hear about snow, remember to pray for the people who live in Denver and the missionaries who are reaching them. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away all our sin and makes us whiter than snow. We can pray that the people of Denver will trust in Jesus and experience His forgiveness.”

☐ **OPTION 2: FEEL AND SEE**

Before the session, place different objects in 5–8 paper bags. Objects may include a small stuffed animal, a building block, toy car, fake plant, piece of bread, orange, etc. Place the bags on a table for the kids to see. Invite kids one at a time to touch the object inside each bag but instruct them to not look in the bag.

After all kids have touched the objects, ask them to raise their hand and identify each object. Hold up the first bag and ask kids what they felt inside and what they think the object is. Take out the object to reveal its identity. Continue for each bag. Ask kids how touching the object helped them to know what it was. Discuss how seeing the object confirmed their answers.

SAY “Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. They saw Him but were afraid. They wanted further proof that Jesus really is alive and not just a spirit. Jesus let His disciples see His wounds and told them to touch Him. Jesus really is alive! He lives in heaven and is coming back one day.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

