

EASTER BONUS SESSION

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 27-28; MARK 15-16; LUKE 23-24; JOHN 19-20



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus loves us so much that He died for our sins and came back to life. If we believe in Him, we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: If my people pray and turn from sin, I will forgive them. 2 Chronicles 7:14

STORY POINT: Jesus died on the cross and is alive.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Amid the grief of Christ's death by crucifixion, we find the gospel's good news for sinners: "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:5-6). The basis of Christian hope is found within these words as an angel of the Lord reminds us of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Jesus alone has saved us from our enemies: sin and death.

What was the significance of Christ's cries from the cross to the Father? How should the reality of the resurrection impact our lives as followers of Jesus?

All four Gospels recount the brutality of the crucifixion and how our sinless Savior was mercilessly mocked and killed by sinful men. In previous chapters, we read that Jesus' sweat was like drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane, as He knew the treacherous darkness He would face. Yet, Christ's obedience to His Father's will was motivated by the joy He would experience on the other side of the cross. Jesus cried out to the Father, "Why have you abandoned me?" He knew, however, that His sacrificial death was the only way for people to be saved. Jesus bore our sin and shame to set us free from sin and death, allowing those who trust in Him to be born again through the Spirit and welcomed into God's kingdom forever. Every believer has resurrection hope both now and for all eternity. Not only will we spend eternity in the presence of our Savior, but the life we now live, we live by faith in Jesus (Galatians 2:20).

Consider the simplicity of the gospel's good news: Jesus died for sinners so we could be set free from the tyranny of sin and death with the hope of eternal life. Those who were enemies of God can draw near to Him by faith in the Son who has paid our debts and given us new life. Lead boys and girls to see the power of the resurrection within our everyday lives as believers—no longer slaves to sin but children of God with good news to share!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Cut flowers

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ green construction paper
- ☐ brightly colored cupcake wrappers, 3 or 4 per child



LIVE

Snack and Transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Match the Opposites" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



LEARN

Pass heavy and light

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ large rock

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ paper plates, 2

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker
- ☐ worship music

Make a doughnut tomb snack

- ☐ plastic spoons, 1 per child
- ☐ paper plates, 1 per child
- ☐ round donuts, ½ per child
- ☐ donut holes, 1 per child
- ☐ icing

Color over a cross

- ☐ heavyweight paper, 1 per child
- ☐ painter's tape



LOVE

Shine a light

- ☐ cardboard tubes
- ☐ plastic wrap
- ☐ permanent markers, several colors
- ☐ painter's tape or rubber bands

Follow the story path

- ☐ "Bible Story" printable, 1 copy
- ☐ painter's tape



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

CUT FLOWERS

Before the session, cut green construction paper leaves (about 3 inches long) and stems (thin strips about 6 inches long). Gather several bright-colored cupcake wrappers and a sheet of copy paper for each child. Guide the children to fringe the edge of the cupcake papers with blunt-tipped scissors. Most younger preschoolers have not used scissors often. Show them how to hold the scissors and demonstrate a short cut toward the center. You may need to hold the cupcake paper for some children and turn it slightly after each cut. Comment that the cupcake wrappers remind you of flowers. Guide the children to glue the flowers, leaves, and stems on their papers. Place the Big Picture Question Poster nearby. Read the big picture question and answer as the children work.

SAY Hi! I am so glad you came today. We see flowers at Easter time. At Easter, we remember that Jesus died on the cross and is alive. Some people wanted to hurt Jesus. They put Him on the cross. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** We often celebrate Easter with beautiful flowers. You can give your flower picture to a friend and say that Jesus is alive. Our big picture question and answer says, **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** God will forgive us when we pray and turn from our sin.

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swapped → worship songs
→ * Jesus loves Me.
→ * Praise the Lord

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





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 PASS HEAVY AND LIGHT



Before the session, gather a large rock and several lighter items from the standing supply list, such as a Bible, baby doll, and beanbag. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster to reference as you discuss this week's session.

SAY “Let’s pass these items around to see which is heavier. Now, let’s pass the rock. It is heavy, isn’t it? Let’s compare the rock to these other items. Which one is the heaviest? Yes, the rock! In our Bible story, there is a rock as big as this table. Do you think you could move a rock that big? Listen to hear about the big rock in the Bible story.”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY Video

Open your Bible to Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, and John 19-20. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

SAY “Some people loved Jesus, but others did not like Him. Jesus never did anything wrong, but the people wanted to hurt Him. One day, they took Jesus away to put Him on a big wooden cross.

Soldiers made fun of Jesus and put a crown of thorns on His head. But Jesus still loved them and asked God to forgive them.

It got dark, and Jesus felt sad. He said, “I trust You, God,” and then He died.

A man named Joseph put Jesus’ body in a special cave called a tomb. A big rock was rolled in front, and soldiers watched the tomb to make sure no one took Jesus away.

On the third day, some women went to see Jesus. The big rock had been moved! An angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Jesus is alive!” The women were so happy. They ran to tell everyone the good news.

Christ Connection: Jesus loves us so much that He died for our sins and came back to life. If we believe in Him, we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Draw a smiling face on one paper plate and a sad face on another one. Tape the plates on opposite sides of the room. Gather the children in the middle.

SAY 🗣️ Listen as I retell the Bible story. If something happy happens in the story, walk quietly toward the happy face. If something sad happens, walk quietly toward the sad face. Ready? Listen carefully to the story. Jesus always did the right thing. **[Children move.]** The people who did not like Jesus took Him away to put Him on a cross, and soldiers hurt Jesus. **[Children move.]** Jesus asked God to forgive them and said, 'I trust You, God.' **[Children move.]** Jesus died, His body was put into a tomb, and soldiers rolled a rock in front of it. **[Children move.]** Women went to see Jesus. The rock was moved, and an angel said that Jesus is alive. The women ran to tell everyone the good news. **[Children move.]** You listened well and moved to the sad and happy faces! Please come and sit down now. What happened to the rock? **[Allow responses.]** Yes, the soldiers put it in front of the tomb. When the women came, the heavy rock was moved! **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** Jesus came back to life so we could be forgiven and live with Him forever. 🗣️

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "London Bridge":

Pray, and turn from your sin,
From your sin, from your sin.
Pray, and turn from your sin,
Jesus forgives you.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE



Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together.

SAY 🗣️ The key passage phrase tells us to pray and turn from sin. Turning from sin is called repentance. When we are tempted to do something wrong, turning and moving away from that thing can be helpful. Pretend that your mom just bought your favorite cookies, but she said, 'No cookies until after supper.' Should you stand and stare at the cookies? No! Looking at the cookies makes you want them more and more. You might be tempted to sneak one cookie. That would be disobeying your mom! If you turn away from the cookies to play a game or read a book, doing the right thing will be easier! Let's say the key passage phrase while turning around to remind us to move away from sin. 🗣️

6 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help you turn away from sin and obey Him.

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 MAKE A "JESUS IS ALIVE" POSTER



Prior to the sessions, write JESUS IS ALIVE in large letters on paper, one for each child. Provide crayons or washable markers for the children to use to decorate their posters. Encourage the children to put the papers on their refrigerators or in their bedrooms to help them remember **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.**

SAY 🍌 We can decorate our posters with bright, happy colors. The women who went to the tomb to see Jesus were sad that Jesus died. Then, they saw that the big rock had been moved and Jesus was not there. The angel said, 'Don't be afraid! Jesus is alive!' The women were happy and ran to tell everyone that Jesus is alive! 🍌

2 SHINE A LIGHT

Before the session, cover one end of a cardboard tube with plastic wrap. Secure with painter's tape or rubber bands. Gently draw a cross shape on the plastic wrap with a permanent marker. Prepare several tubes using different-colored permanent markers. Invite children to shine flashlights through the tube to make a cross appear on the wall. Guide preschoolers to notice how the cross gets smaller as you get closer to the wall and, as you move away, it gets bigger.

SAY 🍌 How do you think Jesus' friends felt when He died on the cross? (sad, angry, afraid) How did Jesus' friends feel when the angel told them that Jesus is alive? (surprised, happy) The cross makes me feel sad when I think about Jesus dying, but it also makes me feel happy because Jesus died to rescue people from sin, and God made Him alive again. **JESUS DIED ON A CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** 🍌

3 FOLLOW THE STORY PATH

Make a painter's tape path around the room. Tape the six pictures from the "Bible Story" printable along the path in this order: Jesus' ministry, cross, crown of thorns, Jesus' death, closed tomb, and the happy women. Encourage children to walk in pairs and retell each other the story as they come to each picture.

SAY 🍌 Let's walk together along this path. Look at this picture. What is Jesus doing? The people loved Jesus. Look at the next picture. Why is there a cross? Some people didn't like Jesus and they took Him away to put Him on a wooden cross. [Continue to encourage children to retell the story or ask questions to prompt them.] Our story tells us that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** 🍌





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 CHOOSE MOTIONS

Say the key passage phrase together. Choose motions for the words people, pray, turn, sin, and forgive. Talk about what each important word means. Practice saying the key passage phrase together while doing the motions.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase is important! Jesus died on the cross and came back to life so that He could forgive us for sins. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die for us. If we believe in Him, we can ask Him to forgive us for disobeying Him. He will forgive us. Jesus wants us to repent from our sin and live with Him forever in heaven. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** Let’s say the key passage phrase while doing the motions we made up together. ”

2 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Jesus loves us so much that He died for our sins and came back to life. If we believe in Him, we can be forgiven and live with Him forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 SPREAD GOOD NEWS

Gather the children for group time and tell them you are glad they are in church today. Comment that in our Bible story today, the women who loved Jesus told Jesus' helpers some good news. Invite the preschoolers to spread out around the room. Choose one girl and tell her the phrase, "Jesus is alive." Instruct her to pass the message by choosing one person to share the message with. Continue until everyone has heard the good news.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Matthew 27–28; Mark 15–16; Luke 23–24; and John 19–20. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

- Jesus never did anything wrong, but people wanted to hurt Him. They put Jesus on a big wooden cross.
- Soldiers made fun of Jesus and put a crown of thorns on His head. It got dark, and Jesus felt sad. He said, "I trust You, God," and then He died.
- Jesus' body was put in a special cave called a tomb. A big rock was rolled in front.
- On the third day, some women went to see Jesus. The big rock had been moved! An angel said, "Don't be afraid! Jesus is alive!" The women ran to tell everyone the good news.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "London Bridge":

Pray, and turn from your sin,
From your sin, from your sin.
Pray, and turn from your sin,
Jesus forgives you.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Repeat the key passage phrase. Comment that the key passage phrase reminds us to pray and ask God to forgive us when we do things that are wrong. Say that the things we do wrong are called sin. Play a song about Jesus and stop the music several times. Guide the children to stand up each time the music stops and say the key passage phrase together.

5 PRAY

Pray, praising God for His goodness and for making the way for us to be with Him forever.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY A BEANBAG GAME

Gather a beanbag before the session. Guide the preschoolers to sit in a circle. Toss the beanbag to a child and encourage him to name one thing he remembers from the story or one thing he knows about Jesus. Then, ask him to toss the beanbag to another child.

SAY “ Let’s play a game to remember the Bible story. I am holding the beanbag. I remember that some people loved Jesus but other people did not like Him. I will toss the beanbag to [child’s name], and he can tell us one thing he remembers from the story. Ready? **[Toss the beanbag and prompt as needed to help the child share something from the story.]** Good! Now [child’s name] will toss the beanbag to someone else. ”

7 MAKE A DOUGHNUT TOMB SNACK

Provide a small paper plate, a plastic spoon, half of a circle doughnut, a doughnut hole, and a small bit of icing for each child. Guide the children to use the spoon to put a small amount of icing on each cut edge of the doughnut and to stand it in the center of the plate. Lay the doughnut hole on the plate. Retell the story briefly using the doughnut hole for the rock in front of the tomb.

SAY “ When Jesus died on the cross, a kind man put Jesus’ body in a special cave called a tomb. Then, a big rock was rolled in front of the cave. Roll the round doughnut in front of the hole. Soldiers stood there and watched the tomb to be sure that no one took Jesus’ body away. Even though the soldiers were watching, the rock was rolled away on the third day, and Jesus was not in the tomb. Roll your round doughnut away. What happened next? The angel said that Jesus is alive, and the women were so happy they ran to tell everyone. ”

8 COLOR OVER A CROSS

Use painter’s tape to make a cross shape on heavyweight paper for each child. Invite children to use markers or crayons to color over the cross. Encourage them to color the entire paper, especially around the tape. Help children to remove the tape and reveal their cross pictures.

SAY “ I like how each cross is different, just like each of you is different. When you see your cross, it can remind you **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE**. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. That is the best news ever! ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.