

LESSON 4

THE RESURRECTION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives**SCRIPTURE:** [John 20](#)**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After Jesus dies on the cross, His body is placed in a tomb. Three days later His followers find the tomb empty and discover that Jesus is again alive!**MEMORY VERSE:** I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. —[Psalm 77:12](#)**CURIOSITY** Large Group or Small Group

Activities that spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: What do you do for fun?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder

**BELIEF** Large Group

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Psalm 77:12](#)

FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Blessing Your Kids

CLOSING Large Group or Small Group

Interactive options to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- He Is Risen

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

When your future feels uncertain, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When pain twists its knife, filling your days and stealing away your sleep, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When friendships strain or snap, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When bills pile up and you dread checking your bank balance, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When anxiety takes your breath away, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When death robs you of someone you can't live without, remember: *Jesus lives.*

Jesus lives.

Those two words—words you'll share with your kids in this lesson—fuel hope. More than hope, actually—they fuel a certainty that beyond whatever troubles tear at us today is an eternity of joy with Jesus. Because He lives, we will live. Because we're His, there's no need to fear that death will one day lay claim to us.

As you read [John 20:1–20](#), put yourself outside that empty cave. Breathe in the morning air, feel the dew beneath your feet. Stare into the tomb and hear the angel's question: "Why are you crying?" ([John 20:13](#)).

Why, indeed? The reality that Jesus lives changes ... everything.

May the Holy Spirit instill in you the fresh hope that Jesus' first followers felt when they saw the risen Christ. And may the kids you serve discover that the hope that's in you can be the hope that fills their hearts too.

Jesus lives.

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Mary Magdalene was part of a group of women who followed Jesus, traveling with Him and His disciples. Jesus had driven seven demons out of her ([Luke 8:2](#)). She was present at the crucifixion ([John 19:25](#)) and saw where Jesus' body was laid ([Mark 15:47](#)).

WHAT?

Mary went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone removed. She thought Jesus' body had been taken, but Jesus had risen! After Mary saw two angels in the tomb, Jesus appeared to her. He sent her to tell the disciples, and He later appeared to them.

WHERE?

Jesus' body was laid in a tomb newly hewn from rock and belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb was in a garden near Golgotha, where Jesus had been crucified, outside the city gate of Jerusalem but still near the city.

WHEN?

Jesus died and was placed in the tomb on the Jewish Preparation Day before the Sabbath started at sundown. Jesus rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath, and the empty tomb was discovered by Mary early that morning.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' resurrection means a power greater than death has arrived on the scene of history. Jesus defeated death! The God of Scripture and of all history lives, and the good news is that He will also raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Welcome Question

Before kids arrive, display the [Resurrection Welcome Question Slide](#), or point out the following question on a whiteboard: “What do you do for fun?”



As kids arrive ...

Greet kids with a warm “Happy Easter!” Show them the [Welcome Question](#) and, if you have younger kids, read the question aloud for them. Explain that you’d like them to share their answers with others to see whether anyone else has the same answer.

Leader Tip: Teach kids a traditional call-and-response spoken by Jesus-followers around the world. Say, “He is risen,” and invite kids to respond with “He is risen indeed!” Do this multiple times throughout the lesson to help kids focus on what today is all about—celebrating that Jesus lives!

Free Play

Tables will be set with games, toys, and activities for kids to enjoy until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know the kids in your class through conversation and play. Be sure to get on their level!

PRO TIP: Use this time for a bathroom reminder in order to avoid unnecessary interruptions later in class.

Countdown Video

At the end of free play...

Play the [countdown video](#) provided and then show it every week before your official start time to signal time to clean up.

Curiosity Questions

At your start time ...

Gather kids and let them know you are excited to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with them! Invite several volunteers to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What do you do for fun?** Consider sharing one of your favorite activities.

One thing that all your fun activities have in common: You can enjoy them because you are alive! Today we'll discover what it was like for someone to not just be alive but to rise from the dead to be alive again (spoiler alert: It's Jesus!). But first, it's time to be curious.

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I'm curious ...

- **What are three things you do that prove you're alive?**
- **What does Jesus do that shows He's alive?**

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Resurrection Declaration Slide

Display the Resurrection Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
I know that Jesus is alive! (Repeat)
Because of Him, I can be fully alive too! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

Easter

Each week we start our time together with a declaration. These words that we're about to declare together remind us of what God says is true about me and you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

I know that Jesus is alive! (Kids repeat.)

Because of Him, I can be fully alive too! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives!

SCRIPTURE: John 20

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 77:12

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, as we listen and learn about the resurrection, may Your Spirit teach us, lead us, and show us Your love and plan. Show us how Jesus loves us and gave His life for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), [Resurrection Title Slide](#), [The Resurrection God's Big Story Video](#), cardboard clue boxes (4) and props: stone, linen cloths (such as dish towels), flashlight or battery-powered push light, magnifying glass (optional), detective costume (optional), [The Resurrection Experience It! Script](#) (1 extra copy)

Display the Resurrection Title Slide.

LESSON 4 THE RESURRECTION

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Ahead of time, gather four simple cardboard boxes with lids or the ability to close. In permanent marker, label the first three boxes “Clue #1,” “Clue #2,” and “Clue #3.” Label the fourth box “The Final Clue.”

Fill the boxes: Put a stone, large enough to be visible to the kids, inside “Clue #1.” Put neatly folded linen cloths (such as dish towels) inside “Clue #2.” You could leave the third box, “Clue #3,” empty or place a battery-powered lantern or flashlight (turned on) inside. (This is optional because in some spaces, the light won’t be visible.) “The Final Clue” can remain empty. Close up the boxes or place lids on them.

Set the stage: Place the first three clue boxes, each a couple feet apart, on your staging area where they will be visible to the kids as they arrive. For “The Final Clue,” ask another adult volunteer (who is willing to play a sneaky role) to bring this clue onstage according to the cue written in the script. (Print an extra copy of the Experience It! Script so this volunteer can follow along and not miss her clue.) Keep “The Final Clue” box out of sight until the designated point in the script.

Get into character: You are an eager, somewhat dramatic detective trying to solve the mystery of what happened to Jesus. While you are quite good at observing and sorting out clues, you have trouble naming emotions and must act them out for the kids to identify. A magnifying glass and detective costume would help set the scene but are not necessary.

Once kids are gathered, tiptoe onto the stage area like a detective hunting for clues. Have fun with the discovery of the three clue boxes! Maybe while tracking footprints, you bump into the first box. You try to lift it, but it’s too heavy. Perhaps you observe the outside of the second box for fingerprints. Maybe you pick up the third one and gently rattle it to hear what’s inside. When the kids’ interest is sufficiently piqued, take notice of them, squint your eyes a bit like you’re deep in thought, scratch your chin, and say, “Hmmm.” Then announce: **Jesus was missing!**

Pace back and forth like you’re thinking it out. **These are the facts: After Jesus died to make the way from slavery to freedom and from death to life, His body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in linen cloths, and placed in a nearby tomb. The tomb was in a garden. A large stone was placed in front of the tomb’s entrance. Jesus had died on a Friday. The next day was the Sabbath day of rest, which ended at sundown. Stop pacing. Then early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark ... that’s when everything got ... mysterious.**

On that dark Sunday morning, a woman named Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. Mary was one of Jesus’ friends and followers. She was very—oh, what’s the word? Act sad and encourage the kids to name the feeling by shouting it out. **Sad. Mary was very sad about Jesus’ death. His followers had put so much hope in Him. How could He be dead?**

Make It Inclusive! Give kids with extra energy an opportunity for more movement by inviting them up to open Clues #1 and #2.

When Mary got to the tomb (head to the first box), **there was the first clue!** Open the first clue box to reveal a stone. Hold it up, and in your best shocked/dramatic voice, say: **The stone had been moved from the entrance. Mary ran to tell Peter and John, two of Jesus’ friends and disciples. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first. He bent down and looked inside. And there** (go to the second box) **was the second clue!** Open the second clue box to reveal folded linen cloths. **The linen cloths were lying there ... but Jesus’ body was gone! What was going on?! When Peter showed up, he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths and the funeral cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. It was lying in its place**

undisturbed. **Why would grave robbers take time to leave the cloth so neatly wrapped? John came inside the tomb and saw the same thing. Peter and John were very—oh, what's the word?** Act confused until the kids say, "Confused." **Confused.** Scratch your chin and say, "Hmmm." **Jesus was missing!**

Peter and John went back to the place where they were staying, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. Remember she was—oh, what's the word? Act sad until the kids say, "Sad." **Sad.** **Mary bent over to look in the tomb and through watery eyes saw something unexpected: the third clue!** Open the third clue box and then jump back like a really bright light just shone into your face from inside the box. **Whoa, that's bright!** Take another peek. **Whoa, my eyes! It's hard to see, but ...** Peer inside box. **Two angels dressed in white were sitting where Jesus' body had been.** "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked Mary. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away. ... I don't know where they have put him" (John 20:13). Scratch your chin and say, "Hmmm." **Jesus was missing!**

Have an adult volunteer sneak onstage behind you with the fourth box labeled "The Final Clue" and place it somewhere kids can see it. The volunteer then exits. Continue the next few lines until the kids point you to the box or you discover it. **What now? We are out of clues. Will we ever solve this mystery?** Make a disgruntled or frustrated face until you see the fourth box: **Oh! The final clue!**

Then Mary turned around. Someone else was standing behind her. Who was it? The gardener? Mary couldn't tell. The man asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him" (John 20:15). She just wanted to know where Jesus' body was. Then the man said ... (open "The Final Clue" box) **"Mary." He said her name. "Mary."**

Mary knew that voice. She had heard it many times before. It wasn't the gardener. It was Jesus! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead! He was right there in front of her. Mary cried out, " 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher') " (John 20:16, NIV). She was so—oh, what's the word? Act really excited until the kids say, "Excited." **Excited to see Jesus. He had died, but now He was alive again!**

Jesus told Mary to go to those who believe in Him. He said, "Tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God' " (John 20:17). Soon the risen Jesus would be with His Father in heaven. Mary went to tell the disciples the incredible news. "She said, 'I have seen the Lord!' " (John 20:18). **It was a miracle!**

That night, the disciples, Jesus' closest followers, were in a room. They had locked the doors because they were—oh, what's the word? Act afraid until the kids say, "Scared/afraid." **Afraid of the Jewish leaders. But locked doors couldn't keep out the risen Jesus. He came in and stood among His disciples. Now they saw what Mary had seen. Jesus was alive! He said to them, "May peace be with you!"** (John 20:19). Then He showed them His hands and side, which had been pierced on the cross. **The disciples were so—oh, what's the word?** Act happy until the kids say, "Happy." **Happy! It's true: Jesus had really died. But now He was alive again! In His great power, He defeated death itself and rose from the grave forever. Jesus' great power is the only thing that can free us from death's hold too because ...** (scratch your chin and say, "Hmmm") **Jesus isn't missing ... Jesus lives!**

Watch God's Big Story

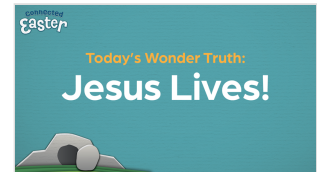
Watch the [Resurrection God's Big Story video!](#)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

SUPPLIES: [Resurrection Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Display the Resurrection Wonder Truth Slide. Help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story and invite any ready to respond:



Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS LIVES!**

Jesus came to Earth as a baby. He grew up just like you and I grow up. As an adult, he began to teach people about all that God was doing.

He healed people and performed miracles. The things he said and the things he did were unlike anything anyone had ever heard. But the biggest surprise was that he came to die.

When Jesus, the son of the living God, died on the cross it seemed to be the worst day ever. His friends and family and followers were confused and sad. It's hard to hear the story without being sad, too. It was the worst thing that had ever happened.

But it was also the very best thing that has ever happened. It was just as God had planned it!

Because of sin, we deserve punishment, but our Savior, Jesus, took the punishment for us.

Because of sin, we don't always keep our promises, but God always keeps his.

Because of sin, we sometimes run from God, so instead, he came to us.

Jesus died on the cross to trade his perfect life for our sin-filled lives. His sacrifice-giving up his own life-made it possible for us to be forgiven of all the wrong things we've ever done.

And not only that! Jesus, who died on the cross, didn't stay dead. He couldn't! His resurrection power is greater than even death itself and on the third day, God raised him from the dead.

The God of the Bible and of all history lives! When we follow Jesus, the promise of life forever with Him is ours!

He's coming back again to wipe out all the bad and wipe out all the sadness. He's coming to give us a new home. So we keep waiting! We keep believing! We keep trusting that the story isn't over yet! One day we will see him again. One day we will be with him. And then forever, there will be nothing but the best days!

He is risen! (He is risen, indeed!)

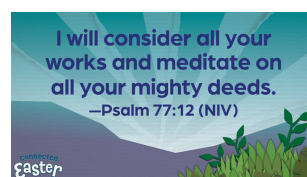
If you believe in Jesus and believe that this story is true, you can tell God that you want to be in his family right now. Pray with me:

Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent your Son Jesus to take away my sin. I'm sorry for the bad things I've done. Please forgive me and help me to love and trust you more every day. Amen.

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse slide

Display the memory verse Slide. **I love the advice we find in Psalm 77:12: Stop to remember the mighty acts of God. One of those mighty acts is Jesus rising from the dead, but that's not the only thing we could remember. Let's read our Word of Wonder—and then hop to remembering what God has done!**



Invite kids to gather along one side of the room—together with their small groups if that works best—and to join you in reading aloud the memory verse three times from the screen. Then ask kids to move to the opposite side of the room by jumping or hopping—but each jump/hop must be preceded by someone calling out a mighty act of God. (If your space is large, consider having kids take giant steps instead of hops/jumps.)

At the far side of the room, have kids join you in reading the verse aloud again and then return to where they were sitting.

If kids struggle to think of mighty acts of God to shout out, get them started with these ideas: creating the world, speaking to Moses from a burning bush, splitting the Red Sea, closing the mouths of the lions with Daniel, coming to earth as a baby, healing a man who was paralyzed, etc.

Leader Tip: Control the pace of this activity by announcing that you'll repeat mighty acts called out by kids, and kids can all take a jump or hop only after you mention a mighty act.

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

MEMORY VERSE

I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.

—Psalm 77:12 (NIV)

Questions: Younger Kids

- **Why do you think Mary Magdalene was sad as she went to visit Jesus' tomb?** (*Jesus had died on the cross.*)
- **Mary Magdalene ran to give Peter and John a message. What was it?** (*The stone had been moved from the entrance of the tomb.*)
- **When Mary returned to the tomb, what did she see?** (*Two angels dressed in white. Then she saw a man standing behind her who she thought was the gardener but was actually Jesus.*)
- **Jesus' disciples locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Why do you think they were afraid of them?**
- **Why do you think it matters that Jesus rose from the dead?**
- **Jesus appeared suddenly to the disciples. If Jesus appeared suddenly to you, what would you do? What would you say? Why?**

Mary Magdalene and the disciples were surprised Jesus rose from the dead, even though Jesus told them it would happen. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it is true! And because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him. Let's thank Him for that now!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Show kids how to use their hands to make the shape of a heart—curled fingers up, thumbs touching beneath. As they hold that shape, ask kids to share aloud simple sentence prayers thanking God that Jesus lives and, through His Holy Spirit, can live in each of them.

Make It Inclusive!

Thinking of words to pray aloud can feel intimidating to some kids. You can help by speaking simple phrases of praise to God and inviting kids to repeat after you. For example, “Jesus, thank You for loving me!”, “God, thank You for beating death!”, and “Jesus, thank You for life!”

Questions: Older Kids

- **Who was the first person to arrive at Jesus’ empty tomb? Who were the next two?** (*Mary Magdalene, then Peter and John*)
- **Mary Magdalene was crying when she saw a man she thought was the gardener. Why do you think she was crying? What do you think she was feeling?** (*Mary thought someone had stolen Jesus’ body. Sad.*)
- **What might explain why Mary Magdalene didn’t recognize Jesus?**
- **The disciples were hiding from Jewish leaders. Why?**
- **Jesus is alive ... what difference will that make in your life this week?**
- **Jesus appeared suddenly to the disciples. If Jesus appeared suddenly to you, what would you do? What would you say? Why?**

Even though Jesus told His disciples He’d die and then rise again, they were shocked when it happened. It seemed too amazing to be possible—but it was true. And because Jesus defeated death, through Him we can live forever too ... with Him! Let’s thank Him for that now!

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Have kids use their hands to make the shape of a heart—curled fingers up, thumbs touching beneath— and hold that shape as they pray. Encourage kids to share aloud simple sentence prayers thanking God that Jesus lives and, through His Holy Spirit, can live in each of them.

Make It Inclusive! Thinking of words to pray aloud can feel intimidating to some kids. You can help by speaking simple phrases of praise to God and inviting kids to repeat after you. For example, “Jesus, thank You for loving me!”, “God, thank You for beating death!”, and “Jesus, thank You for life!”

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



Blessing: May you experience the joy of new life through Jesus, your living Savior!

The logo for 'Wonder Ink' is displayed on a dark blue, rounded rectangular background. The word 'Wonder' is in a large, white, sans-serif font, and 'Ink' is below it in a slightly smaller, white, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right.

Closing

LESSON 4 **ELEMENTARY**

Large Group or Small Group

Use any of the following activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

GAME : HE IS RISEN!

SUPPLIES: blindfold

In this game, kids hide around the room and stay in place. The person who is “It” is blindfolded and calls out, “He is!” The hiding kids respond, “Risen!”

Let’s play a game like “Marco Polo” called “He Is Risen!” One person is It and wears a blindfold. While the person who is It counts to 25, everyone else hides around the room and then remains standing in one spot. It calls out, “He is!” And those hiding respond, “Risen!” The person who is It searches with her arms out for another person. Whoever she tags is out and will sit along the side cheering silently with spirit fingers while the others continue playing. Demonstrate spirit fingers by raising both hands and wiggling your fingers. **Remember that you have to call out, “Risen!” every time It calls out, “He is!”** Play until all but one kid is out. Or if your group is large, play until about five kids are out, and then select a new It and invite everyone to participate in a new round of the game.

Leader Tip: If your group is large, select a small group of kids to play the game while the rest watch. Kids not participating can cheer silently with spirit fingers (raising both hands and wiggling their fingers). If done on stage, assign a leader to walk beside the person who is “It” to keep her safe from the edge.

When finished, gather kids together. **In our game, the person who was It had to listen carefully for the voices of those hiding and then search for them. In God’s big story today, we learned how Mary looked for Jesus after His death. When Jesus said Mary’s name, she knew it was Him! Jesus conquered death and lives! He is risen!**