

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 spend time thinking about everything you have done. —[Psalm 77:12](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

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 and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Psalm 77:12](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

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

- Jesus Lives Celebration
- Easter Egg Toss

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.

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

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know the kids in your class and play alongside them.

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

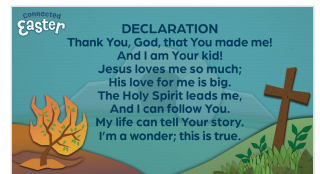
Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

At your start time...

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

Show the [Declaration Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Welcome to church today! Today is one of my favorite days to be with all of you because today we celebrate Easter! I am so excited to talk to you about all that God did for us. Let's get started with our declaration. These words that we declare together remind us of what God says is true about me and you! Repeat after me:

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Belief

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, 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

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn about how Jesus lives. Let's sing about the resurrection together! The word *resurrection* means Jesus came back to life after He died!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

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

SUPPLIES: Bible, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible.

God's Big **STORY SCRIPT**

During God's big story today, we're going to think about how the people felt, and we're going to make faces to match their emotions. For example, if someone in the story is happy, I will make a happy face with my eyes wide open and a big smile, and you can do the same thing. Let's practice! Make a happy face and ask the kids to copy you. **Great job! Now, let's listen to God's big story, and I'll tell you when to make a special face!**

Jesus came to Earth as a baby. He grew up just like you and I grow up. Then, 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 died on the cross it seemed to be the worst day ever. His friends and family 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! Let's hear what happened next!

After Jesus died, His body was put in a tomb, which was kind of like a cave. A large stone was put in front of the tomb. Jesus died on a Friday. Make a sad face. Then early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, a woman named Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. Mary was a friend of Jesus. She was very sad that Jesus died. Make a sad face.

When Mary got to the tomb, the stone that was blocking the entrance was not in front of it. She ran to tell Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, His followers. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first. Make a tired face. They bent down and looked inside. They saw the cloths Jesus was wrapped in. But Jesus was not there! Where was Jesus? Make a worried face.

Peter and John left, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. Make a sad face. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus' body had been. "Woman, why are

you crying?” they asked. Mary answered, “They have taken my Lord away. I don’t know where they have put him” (John 20:13). Make a confused face.

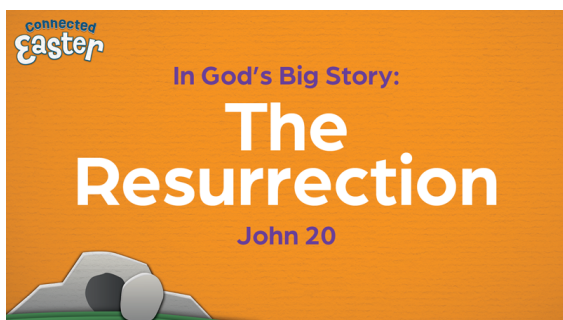
Then Mary turned around. Someone was there. Who was it? Mary did not know. The man asked her, “Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” (John 20:15). So she said, “Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him” (John 20:15). She wanted to know where Jesus’ body was. Then the man said her name. “Mary” (John 20:16). Mary knew that voice. She had heard it many times before. It was Jesus! Jesus was alive! Make a happy face. He rose from the dead! Jesus was right there in front of her. Mary was so excited to see Jesus. Make an excited face. He died, but now He was alive again! It was a miracle. Mary went to go tell the disciples the good news!

That night the disciples were together in a room. “They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders” (John 20:19). Make a scared face. But locked doors couldn’t keep Jesus out. He came into the room. Now they saw that Jesus was alive! He said to them, “May peace be with you!” (John 20:19). Then Jesus showed them where His hands had been hurt. It was really Him. The disciples were so happy! Make a happy face. Jesus really did die. But now He was alive again! He beat death and came back to life. Because Jesus died on the cross, we can be saved from sin and because He rose back to life, we can live with God forever!

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!

Watch God's Big Story

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



Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

When Jesus died, 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 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 gave up his own life so that we can 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 power is greater than even death and on the third day, God raised him from the dead. That's what we're celebrating today!

When we follow Jesus, He promises that we can have life forever with Him! One day, 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: plastic eggs (1 per kid; at least 11)



MEMORY VERSE

**I will spend time thinking about
everything you have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

Before kids arrive, draw a cross on 10 or more small pieces of paper. Place one of these papers in each plastic egg except for nine eggs, which will remain empty.

Write the verse, including the reference, on a sheet of paper and cut out each word and reference so that there are 11 smaller pieces of paper (one word per paper, and the reference on one piece). Have half of your group stand with eyes closed while the other half helps hide the eggs (then switch and do the activity again!).

To practice our memory verse today, we're going to have a special kind of Easter egg hunt! There are eggs hidden around the room. When you find an egg, open it to see what is inside. If there is a piece of paper with a cross on it, put the egg in this basket and then keep looking for more eggs. If you find an egg and open it and it is empty (like Jesus' tomb!), bring it to me, and you will get a word from our verse! Once all the words have been collected, we will put them together to say our verse!

Allow kids to hunt for the eggs and give reminders of the directions as needed. When all words in the verse have been collected, line up the words in order on the tray of the white board. Lead kids to say the verse aloud as a group. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.



Faith

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Divide kids into small groups for discussion, prayer, and memory verse practice. Pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy during discussion. Don't forget to practice the verse and award prizes!

Circle Time: Easter Egg Basket Pass

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus' body placed after He died?** (*in a tomb*)
- **What did Mary discover when she got to the tomb?** (*The stone was not in front of it, and Jesus was not there.*)
- **Who did Mary see outside the tomb?** (*two angels dressed in white, then Jesus*)
- **What did Jesus show the disciples in the room that night?** (*He showed them where His hands had been hurt to prove to them that it was really Him.*)
- **How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples that day?**
- **Why do you think we celebrate Easter?**

- **Why is it important that Jesus lives?** (*We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!*)

Make It Inclusive! To support kids while answering discussion questions, you can offer answer choices, rephrase the question so that it is a “yes” or “no” question, allow them to write or draw their thoughts, and/or give plenty of quiet wait time for kids to process and develop a response.

Mary and the disciples were surprised that Jesus rose from the dead. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it is true! Because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him. Let’s pray and thank Him for that now.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for Jesus’ life and resurrection!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish, pray with them and thank God for Jesus’ life and resurrection.

Thank You, God, that Jesus lives! Thank You for Your power and love. Thank You for this day to celebrate and remember all that You have done. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May you experience the joy of new life through Jesus, your living Savior! And may you grow in love for God as you learn about all that He has done and will do.**



Closing

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Option 1: Jesus Lives Celebration

SUPPLIES: balloons (1 per kid, plus a few extras), party hats (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, inflate one balloon for each kid (and a few extras, in case one pops).

We're going to worship Jesus today by having a celebration. Jesus lives! That is the best news ever! Because Jesus lives, we can be saved from sin and live with God forever. That's worth celebrating!

For our celebration today, you will get to wear a party hat. Pass out a party hat to each kid.

You will also get a balloon. When you get your balloon, I would like you to hold it with both hands. Pass out a balloon to each kid.

Now that everyone has a balloon, I will count to three, and then all together, we will shout, "Jesus lives!" as we toss our balloons into the air. Count to three, then shout "Jesus lives!" as you toss a balloon up.

Now, everyone pick up a balloon, and let's do that again! This time we will shout, "Thank You, God!" Ready? One, two, three, "Thank You, God!" Toss the balloon as you thank God.

This is a great celebration, everyone! Now we'll toss our balloons one more time. Get a balloon, and this time, think of something you want to say to God. You can ask Him for something you need or thank Him for something. I will give you a few seconds to think about what you want to say to God. Give quiet wait time. **Now, when I count to three this time, everyone will say their prayer to God aloud or privately in your mind as you toss your balloon.** Count to three and toss a balloon.

I'm so thankful we get to celebrate that Jesus lives!

Leader Tip: Consider using balloons that are all the same color. After kids toss their balloons, this will help minimize any disagreements about which balloon belongs to which person if balloons are all the same color.

Option 2: Easter Egg Toss

SUPPLIES: plastic eggs (1 per every 2 kids)

We are going to play one more game with our Easter eggs! First, find a partner and face each other. Give kids time to find a partner and volunteer to partner with someone if there is an odd number of kids.

I will bring you and your partner a plastic Easter egg. When I tell you to start, you will toss the egg to your partner. If the partner catches it, say, "Jesus lives!" then take one small step away from your partner. If you don't catch it, both partners should stay where they are. I will let you know when to make your next toss and, again, if your partner catches it, say, "Jesus lives!" then take one small step away from your partner. If you don't catch it, you both stay where you are. We'll keep tossing eggs back and forth between partners and see which pair of you can catch the egg the most times!

Make It Inclusive! For a game that's not as physically challenging, allow the kids to sit on the floor and roll the egg back and forth to each other. They can still say, "Jesus lives!" for each turn and scoot away from each other to add some fun.