

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!

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Easter Egg Roll

**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.

## Free Play

### As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly and welcome them to church. As kids enjoy toys and activities during free play, use this opportunity to get to know them and don't be afraid to play right alongside them!

## Clean Up

### At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to get started.

## Declaring God's Wonder

**Welcome! Happy Easter, everyone! I am so glad to be here with you today to celebrate this special day. Stand up and 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").

## Intro

**Supplies:** empty water bottle, full water bottle, empty plastic egg, plastic egg filled with something, play couch arranged like a “tomb”

Before the activity begins, build a “tomb” using play couch cushions and gather additional supplies.

**I have a few things here to help us start thinking about what we're learning today.**

Lead kids in a discussion to introduce the concepts of empty and full. First, hold up the water bottles and show them to the kids. **This one is empty. This one is full.** Allow kids to touch or hold the water bottles.

Next, pick up the eggs. **What about these eggs? Do you think they are full or empty?** Help kids open them to find out. See if they can repeat after you and say the words “empty” and “full.”

Then, hold your hands open in a cup shape. **My hands are empty.** Grab a big handful of something. **Now my hands are full!**

**We saw some things that were empty and some that were full. Today, we are going to learn that Jesus' tomb was empty!**

Point to the pretend tomb. **We're going to pretend that this is a tomb, kind of like a cave. Let's explore!** Walk around and look at the outside, then have kids look inside. **You can go inside the tomb if you want.** Give everyone time to crawl through and explore. **Is this tomb empty or full?** Give time for responses. The tomb is empty just like Jesus' tomb was empty on Easter. **It was empty because Jesus lives!**

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

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS**—Touch the center of the palm of your hand, then touch the palm of your other hand (nails through His palms while on the cross).

**LIVES!**—Move arms up high in a V shape.

## Worship

**SUPPLIES:** Worship music videos

**Today we're learning that Jesus lives! He died on the cross, but He did not stay dead. That's why we celebrate Easter.**

**We'll learn in God's big story how Jesus is alive!**

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## Snack

**SUPPLIES:** small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around tables and serve snack. Begin the Bible story while kids are busy eating.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Our story today is one of the best stories from the Bible about Jesus.** Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus!**

**During God's big story today, we are going to think about how the people felt, and we'll try to make our faces match that! 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 mimic you. **Great job! Now let's listen to God's big story, and I'll tell you when to make your faces to show me how the people felt.**

**After Jesus died, His body was put in a tomb. A large stone was put in front of the tomb to close it. A woman named Mary went to the tomb. She was very sad that Jesus died.** Make a sad face.

**Mary and two more of Jesus' friends looked inside the tomb, but Jesus was not there! The tomb was empty!** Make a worried face.

**Mary stood outside the tomb, crying.** Make a sad face. **She saw two angels dressed in white.** Make a surprised face. **Then she heard a man say her name. She knew that voice. 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. Jesus is even stronger than death.**

**Mary went to tell the disciples the good news!**

**That night, Jesus showed His friends where His hands had been hurt. It was really Him. They were so happy!** Make a happy face. **Jesus really did die. But now He is alive again! We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!**

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. Thank You, God, that Jesus lives! Thank You for Your power and love. Thank You for Easter 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.**

## Activity: Easter Egg Roll

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (1 per every 2 kids)

Encourage the kids to sit on the floor and face one another. Show kids how to roll the plastic eggs back and forth to each other. If needed, all kids can roll their eggs to a leader instead of to another child. Each time the egg is rolled, the kids can say, "Jesus lives!"

**We celebrate Easter because Jesus lives! Let's roll these Easter eggs to someone and say, "Jesus lives!"**