



Bible Point ▶

Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

Bible Verse

“Jesus died and was raised to life again” (1 Thessalonians 4:14a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- play a rolling game, and then hear about the stone that was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb,
 - hear how Jesus came back to life after three days, and
 - sing a song to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus rises from the dead.

**Matthew
28:1-8;
Luke 24:1-12**

The first people to see the empty tomb were the women closest to Jesus. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James arose early to anoint Jesus’ body with spices, which was a common burial practice. The women were greeted by an angel who announced Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus had defeated death—literally—once and for all!

What Jesus did in his death on the cross was an amazing and powerful demonstration of God’s love because he offered forgiveness for our sins. But what Jesus did on the first Easter morning was even more astounding and perhaps more significant. Jesus’ resurrection is at the core of our faith. The Apostle Paul puts the importance of the Resurrection in a wonderful perspective in 1 Corinthians 15:17-20: “And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.” Without the Resurrection, our faith would be useless. But because of the resurrection of Jesus, “everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life” (1 Corinthians 15:22b)!

Prayer

- Read Romans 4:25.
- What does it mean to you to be “right with God”?
- Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for your incredible victory! Help me to celebrate the gift you’ve given me by...



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Easter Lily Name Tags” (p. 10), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: What’s Inside? —Open containers to see if they find what they expect, and talk about what the women found at Jesus’ tomb.	Small containers with lids, small rocks	
	Option 2: Spicy Scents —Knead fragrant extracts into modeling dough, and talk about the spices the women brought to Jesus’ tomb.	Modeling dough, flavored extracts	
	Option 3: Shining Clothes —Make “shining” belts, and talk about the angels at Jesus’ tomb.	Poster board, scissors, glitter glue, fluorescent markers	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Roll an egg, an orange, and a ball; then hear how the stone rolled away.	Hard-boiled egg, orange, ball, CD player	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear from Luke 24:1-12 how the women discovered Jesus’ empty tomb.	Bible, blanket, modeling-dough rock from Option 2	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing a song and celebrate the Resurrection.	CD player	
Closing 	Surprise! —Tell Whiskers about the best Easter surprise ever.	Small toy, rubber band	
	Easter Joy —Sing a song, and thank God for Easter.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Easter Lily Name Tags” (p. 10), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “Did you tell anyone about how much Jesus loves us?” or “What did you tell your family about Jesus dying on the cross for us?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life.**
- Hand out the Easter lily name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



If you’re teaching this lesson on Easter Sunday, you may have visitors. Be prepared with extra supplies. Introduce new children to class members who have chosen the same Let’s Get Started activity. When parents come to pick up their children, invite them to visit your church again.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “When have you seen a big rock?” or “What does your family do to celebrate Easter?”

■ Option 1: What’s Inside?

SUPPLIES: small containers with lids, small rocks

Help children form pairs. Give each pair three small margarine or yogurt containers with lids and a small rock. Have one partner cover his or her eyes while the other partner hides the rock in one of the three containers. Let the other partner guess where the rock is hidden and then open the containers until he or she finds it. Have children switch roles and repeat the activity.

As each partner looks for the hidden rock, point out that two of the containers were empty. Explain that today’s Bible story is about some women who discovered Jesus’ empty tomb.

■ Option 2: Spicy Scents

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, flavored extracts

Give each child a clump of modeling dough. Put a few drops of lemon or peppermint extract on children’s dough, and let children knead it in. As children are working the extract into the dough, explain that in Bible times, people put fragrant spices on people’s bodies when they died.

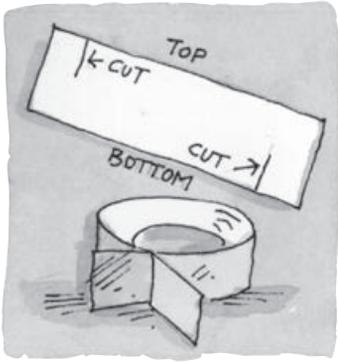


Be sure to choose rocks that are large enough so that they’re not choking hazards.

It’s important that you use containers children won’t be able to see through. If your containers don’t have lids, have children turn them upside down and hide their rocks underneath.



Try making your own modeling dough from this simple recipe. Mix together 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, and 1 tablespoon of alum. Add 2 cups of boiling water, 3 tablespoons of cooking oil, and several drops of food coloring. Then mix and knead for several minutes.



teacher tips

Many highlighting markers are fluorescent.

Let children spend a few minutes forming their dough into crosses, angels, or other objects that remind them of Easter. When children are finished playing, have them combine their pieces to form one large rock-shaped clump. Tell them that you'll use the "rock" later when you tell them what happened at Jesus' tomb.

■ Option 3: Shining Clothes

SUPPLIES: poster board, scissors, glitter glue, fluorescent markers

Before class, cut sheets of poster board into long strips. You should be able to cut five strips per sheet, so you'll need one sheet of poster board for every five children in your class.

Give each child a poster board strip. Set out glitter glue and fluorescent markers. Tell children they're going to make shining belts. Explain that today's Bible story is about angels in shining clothes who appeared at Jesus' tomb.

As children finish decorating their strips, wrap each child's strip around his or her waist to measure for size. Hold the strip tight, and mark where the ends meet. Cut a slit in both ends, as shown in the margin. Use the slits to "hook" the belt together.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: hard-boiled egg, orange, ball, CD player



Tell the children you'll turn the lights off and on to get their attention. Explain that when you flash the lights, the children are to stop what they're doing and be quiet. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Looked for a rock; made a shiny belt; made my modeling dough smell good.)

Say: **Some of you looked for hidden rocks, some of you made shining belts, and some of you made scented modeling dough. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. The modeling-dough makers formed their dough into a rock. Today we're going to hear how a big rock rolled away from Jesus' grave. Let's play a rolling game to get ready for that story.**

First, we'll need to sit in a circle. Help children to form a circle, and then continue: **Now I'd like each person to move three big scoots back.** Wait for children to scoot back. If you have a large room, have them keep scooting back until you've filled the room with your circle. Make your circle as large as possible without bumping into furniture, walls, or other objects.

Hold up the egg and say: **This egg is hard-boiled. It won't break. I'm going to give it to** [name of child sitting near you]. Give the child the egg, and say: [Name of child], **using only two fingers, I'd like you to roll this egg to the person sitting next to you.**

Play the "Roll Along" music (track 12) from the *CD* as children roll the egg around the circle. When the egg gets back to its starting point, pause the *CD*. Replace the egg with an orange. Say: **now I'd like you to roll this orange around the circle, using only one hand. We'll roll the orange in the other direction.**

Continue the "Roll Along" music as children roll the orange around the circle. When the orange gets back to its starting point, pause the *CD*. Replace the orange with a ball. Say: **now we'll roll the ball around the circle. This time you can use two hands.**

Continue the "Roll Along" music as children roll the ball around the circle. When the ball gets back to its starting point, stop the *CD*. Put the ball away, and have children gather around you.

Ask: • **What did you notice about the three things we rolled around the circle?** (They kept getting bigger; they were all different; it was hard to roll the egg.)

• **You got to roll the egg with two fingers, the orange with one hand, and the ball with two hands. Each time you rolled something bigger, you got to use more power. How much power do you think it would take to roll a big rock?** (I'd have to use my whole body; it might take two people; I'd have to stand up and push it.)

• **Do you think it would be possible to roll a rock that was bigger than you?**
Explain. (No, because it would roll over me; no, you'd have to push it with a bulldozer; maybe, if everybody helped.)

Say: **Jesus' followers put his body in a tomb that was kind of like a cave and closed the entrance with a great big rock. But Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life. When some women went to Jesus' tomb, they discovered that the big rock had been rolled away! Let's bring out our Bible so we can find out more about that.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible,
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible,
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *hosanna stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *hosanna stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone here today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, blanket, modeling-dough rock from Option 2



Open the Bible to **Luke 24**, and show it to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible, God’s special book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Unfold the *Learning Mat: Jesus’ Death and Resurrection* so children can see all the pictures. Say: **We’ve learned how Jesus died on the cross for us. Today we’re going to learn how Jesus came back to life. Who can find the picture of the tomb on our Learning Mat?**

Wait for children to point out the tomb. Then say: **This tomb belonged to a man named Joseph. Joseph knew about Jesus and all the good things he had done. Joseph took Jesus’ body down from the cross, wrapped it in cloth, and put it in his tomb. Let’s make our own tomb to see what it might have been like inside.** Have children help you put a blanket over a table.

Let the children crawl in and out of the “tomb,” and then lead them back to the *Learning Mat*. Hold up the modeling-dough rock children made during Let’s Get Started, and place it on the *Learning Mat* in front of the entrance to the tomb. Say: **People usually put big stones in front of the tombs. The stones were very heavy, and once a stone got stuck in the entrance to a tomb, it was really hard to move it.**

Remove the modeling-dough rock, and set the *Bible figure* of the women on the *Learning Mat*. Say: **But the stone in front of Jesus’ tomb was rolled away. Some women who were friends of Jesus came to the tomb. They were surprised to see that the stone had been moved. Show me what you look like when you’re surprised.**

Let children respond, and then continue: **They wondered what was going on. So they walked over to the tomb. Walk the figure of the women closer to the tomb. Then they went inside. They looked around, but they didn’t see Jesus’ body! It was very dark in there, so they looked again. Let’s pretend we’re looking with them. We’ll have to feel our way around since it’s so dark.**

Let children feel around on the floor. Then say: **Jesus’ body wasn’t in the tomb! The women didn’t know what was going on. But then two angels appeared.**

Set the *Bible figure* of the angels on the mat, and then continue: **They said, “Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who’s alive? Jesus isn’t here. Jesus is alive!”**

The women could hardly believe their ears! They were so happy. They couldn’t wait to see Jesus again. They ran as fast as they could to tell all of Jesus’ friends the good news. Jesus was alive! Let’s run around our room one time and say, “Jesus is alive!” After we run around the room, we’ll come back to our Learning Mat and sit down.

Lead children in running around the room and then back to your *Learning Mat*. Remove the angels figure, and set the figure of the two disciples down near the women figure. Say: **Jesus’ friends could hardly believe it. They had seen Jesus die on the cross. How could he be alive? They listened as the women told them about the angels and the empty tomb. Then later on they saw Jesus! It was true! Jesus really was alive. We can believe it’s true because our Bible verse tells us, ▶“Jesus died and was raised to life again.”** Show children the Bible verse, **1 Thessalonians 4:14a**, in your Bible.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Bring in glow-in-the-dark items. Be sure to hold them up to the light to “charge” them before class. Darken the room and show children the glowing objects. Talk about what it might have been like for the women to encounter angels in shining clothing at Jesus’ tomb.

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**



BIBLE POINT ▶



Jesus' friends were glad that ▶ Jesus died for us and then came back to life. We can be glad about that, too. Jesus loves each of us so much! Let's tell Jesus how much we love him!

Lead children in prayer, letting each one who wants to pray aloud do so. Encourage children to tell Jesus how much they love him and to thank him for being our friend.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Bundle the *flower lei* together like a ball. Gather children around you, and hold up the lei ball.

Say: **Let's pretend this is a seed we're going to plant.** Wrap your hands tightly around the lei ball. **Underground, it's quiet and dark. The seed stays there for a long time. That reminds me of the way Jesus stayed in the dark, quiet tomb for three days. Let's slowly count to three to**

remember how long Jesus was in the tomb. Lead children in counting. Then continue: **When the seed is ready, it pushes out of the ground and grows into a flower.** Release the lei so children can see the flowers. **And when it comes out, it looks different!**

Have children help you stretch out the garland to see all the flowers. Say: **Since plants have a new life after they come out of the seed, they can remind us that ▶ Jesus died for us and then came back to life. Let's use these colorful flowers to celebrate Jesus!**

Give each child a chance to hold up the *flower lei*. Have children wave the *flowers lei* and pass it as they sing "Jesus Died and Was Raised" (1 Thessalonians 4:14) to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It," track 7 on the CD.



**Jesus died and was raised to life again.
Jesus died and was raised to life again.
Jesus died and was raised.
That's why we will give him praise.
Jesus died and was raised to life again.**

(Repeat.)

Collect the *flower lei*, and return it to the Learning Lab for later lessons.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Closing

■ Surprise!

SUPPLIES: small toy, rubber band

Before this activity, use a rubber band to attach a small toy to Whiskers' paw. Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Bring out Whiskers, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers and the toy away.



Whiskers: *(Singing)* Tra-la-la.

Teacher: My, you seem happy today, Whiskers. What's going on?

Whiskers: My brother and I are cleaning our rooms.

Teacher: You're happy about cleaning up your room? That's great. Children, are you as happy as Whiskers when you clean up your rooms? *(Let children respond.)*

Whiskers: Well, usually I don't like to clean up my room. But my cousin Joey and his family are coming over, and I'm excited about that. And when I was cleaning up my room, I found my favorite toy! I thought it was lost forever. It was a great surprise.

Teacher: Whiskers, we've been hearing about a very special Easter surprise. Can we tell you about it?

Whiskers: Well, OK. But I can't stay too long. I've got to finish cleaning my room. I might find some more good stuff.

Teacher: Children, let's tell Whiskers about the special surprise the women found at the tomb.

(Lead children in telling Whiskers how the women discovered that Jesus had risen.)

Whiskers: Wow! ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life. Jesus is alive! I'm sure glad I'm cleaning up my room. Maybe I can invite Jesus to come over to my house.

Teacher: Jesus went back to heaven, Whiskers. We'll be hearing more about that story in a few weeks. But Jesus is watching over us, and I'm sure he's glad to see you and your brother helping clean up.

Whiskers: Speaking of my brother, I better go see if he needs any help. We're almost done cleaning up. I'll be sure to tell him that Jesus is alive. What a great surprise! Goodbye. Happy Easter!

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■ Easter Joy



BIBLE POINT ▶

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: ▶ ***Jesus died for us and then came back to life. That's the reason we celebrate at Easter. But Easter isn't the only time we can remember that Jesus is alive. Jesus wants us to remember him all year long. Let's close our class by singing our song about remembering Jesus one last time together.***

Lead children in singing "I'll Remember" (track 11) with the CD to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."



SING

**Jesus said, "Remember me."
Then he died for you and me.
I know Jesus is God's Son.
I'll remember what he's done.**

**Yes, I'll remember;
Yes, I'll remember:
Yes, I'll remember
That Jesus died for me.**

**Jesus is alive today.
He rose again on the third day.
He watches me from heav'n above.
I'll remember his great love.**

**Yes, I'll remember;
Yes, I'll remember:
Yes, I'll remember
That Jesus is alive.**

After you sing the song, close with a prayer similar to this one: **Dear God, thank you that Jesus came back to life and lives in heaven. Help us to remember Jesus all year long. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Easter Review**



Set out the *Learning Mat* and *Bible figures*. Have children use the figures to retell this module's Bible stories. They can take turns telling the stories to each other, or they can tell the stories to Whiskers. As they're telling the stories, remind them that ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life. Encourage them to include this Bible Point as they review the stories.

■ **Make to Take: Angel Faces**



Give each child a small paper cup and a white paper doily. Have them draw happy faces on their cups. Then show them how to pinch their doilies to create wings. As children work, remind them how angels appeared at Jesus' tomb to announce that Jesus was alive.

Help children tape the pinched doilies to the back of their cups to create angels. Encourage them to use their angels to tell family members that ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

■ **Treat to Eat: Empty Tombs**

Before class, cut pita bread in half, but don't pull the layers apart. You'll need one pita bread half for each child.

Help children clean their hands at a nearby sink or with baby wipes. Show children how to pull the pita bread layers apart. Point out that the bread is empty inside. Talk about the empty tomb and how the women looked inside and discovered that Jesus was gone. Then let the children put honey inside their bread. Have them eat the snack as you talk about the sweet surprise of Jesus' resurrection.



■ **Story Picture: Jesus Is Alive!**

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson). Set out glitter glue, and help children put glitter on the angels' clothes. Then set out markers or crayons, and have them color their pictures. As children work, have them tell you what the angels told the women. Remind them that ► Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

Today I learned... Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

Help me learn this:

"Jesus died and was raised to life again"
(1 Thessalonians 4:14a).

Ask me:

- How did Jesus' friends find out that he was alive?
- Who can you tell that Jesus is alive?
- What can our family do to celebrate Jesus' being alive?

Family Fun

- Save the shells from colored Easter eggs and break them into pieces. Draw a stone or angel outline on stiff paper. Create a beautiful Easter mosaic by gluing the colored shell pieces inside your outline. As you work, review the story of the first Easter together.

Lesson 6
Today your child learned that
**JESUS DIED FOR US AND THEN
CAME BACK TO LIFE.** Children heard
how angels announced that Jesus
had risen. They sang songs to
celebrate Jesus being alive.

Jesus Is Alive! (Matthew 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-12)

