

Jesus Is Alive

Bible Basis: Luke 24:1-9, 36-39, 50-53

To toddlers, joyous celebrations come naturally. And in the midst of spring comes the excitement and merriment of Easter! Though toddlers and 2s don't understand the true reason for the Easter celebration, they're old enough to feel the love and joy of having a best friend named Jesus. During this module, you'll enjoy helping your young students understand that Easter joy comes because our best friend, Jesus, is gloriously *alive!*

Jesus Is Alive

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Parent Page

Jesus Is Alive

For the next five weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that Jesus is alive. The children will use their five senses to discover that Jesus came back to life and is always with us.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Springtime with toddlers is a fascinating blend of discovery, exploration, and joy! From smelling the first fragrant garden blossoms to launching dandelions with a breathy puff, your toddler is keenly aware of all that's bright, beautiful, and alive in the springtime world. Look for opportunities to share with your child the joyous fact that Jesus is alive. New plants, little butterflies, baby birds, and blossoms all show little ones that new life is beautiful and exciting. Have fun spending special springtime moments with your child as you both celebrate the glorious news that Jesus is alive!

Together Time

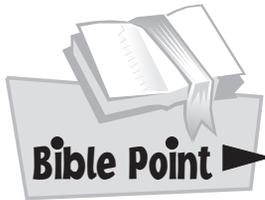
- Visit a toy store or florist with your child, and purchase a special helium balloon for him or her. Be sure the balloon has a long string attached. With your child, take turns holding the balloon and releasing it in the house. Watch the balloon sail upward. Point out that Jesus rose to heaven and, even though we can't see him with our eyes, he's with us all the time. Tie the balloon to your child's shoelace or waist, and invite him or her to go for a walk. Point out that just as the balloon is with you, Jesus is alive and with us wherever we go.
- Play "Where's the Stone?" with your child. Hide a stone in one hand, and place your hands behind your back. Then hold both hands in front of you and ask, "Which cave has the stone?" Let your child guess which hand holds the stone. Then give him or her a turn to hide the stone. Explain that a big, big stone couldn't keep Jesus in the grave and that Jesus is alive today. When you've finished playing, be sure to set the stone out of reach so your child won't put it in his or her mouth and swallow it.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

We're Happy Jesus Is Alive

(sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

**Jesus is alive today.
Clap your hands.
Shout "hooray!"
Jesus is alive today.
We're so happy.**

**Jesus is alive today.
Touch your toes.
Shout "hooray!"
Jesus is alive today.
We're so happy.**



Bible Point ▶

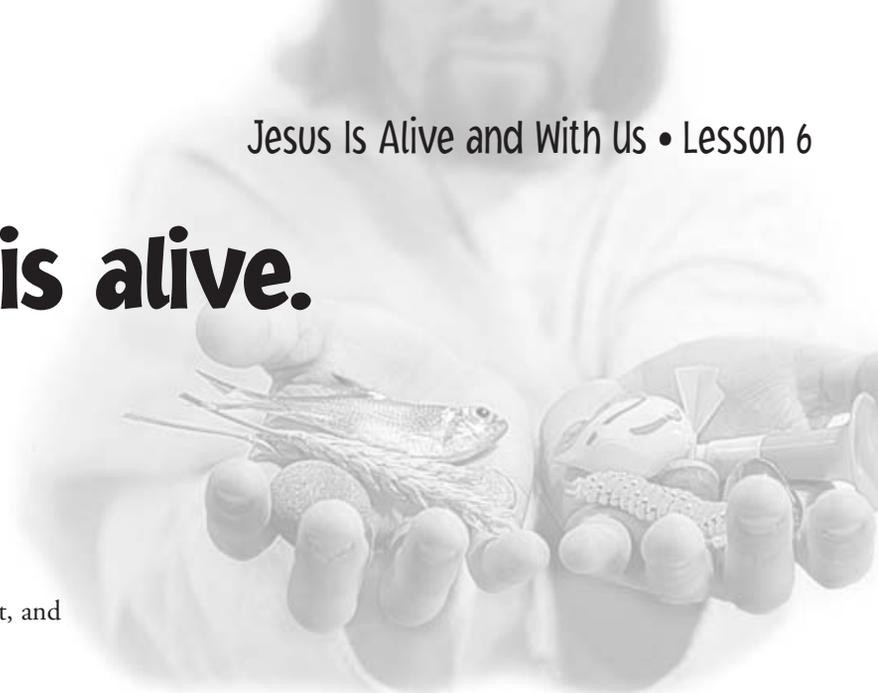
Jesus is alive.

Bible Verse

Jesus is alive (adapted from Matthew 28:6).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that Jesus is alive,
 - understand what Easter is about, and
 - know that Jesus is with us.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus is alive and with us.

**Luke
24:1-9,
36-39, 50-53**



The women in Luke 24:1-9 expected to find a dead body that morning. They were still reeling from their shattered expectations of Jesus, who had claimed to be the Messiah but was unexpectedly arrested and crucified just days earlier. The women brought spices to adorn the body in a final farewell. Instead, their expectations were again

shattered: Jesus was alive!—a fact confirmed by the empty tomb and two glorious angels. The death of Jesus is a difficult subject for toddlers and 2s. Help them appreciate the wonder experienced by the women that morning as they discovered the empty tomb and encountered the angels.

Prayer

- Read Acts 2:24.
- Why do you think death was unable to keep Jesus in its grip?
- How does God's ultimate power over death address fears of death people sometimes have?
- Pray: Lord, help me never become bored or complacent about the fact of Jesus' resurrection. Help the children and me to experience the wonder of it afresh today as we...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

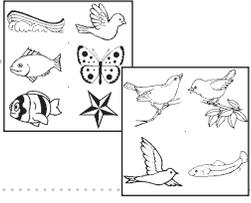


Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.



Model Christ's love to your students by bending down to their level when you listen or speak to them. Be sure to make eye contact, hold a hand, pat a shoulder, and say each child's name sometime during the class. Take a few moments to find out how each child is feeling before directing him or her to the Arrival Activities.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins	
	Option 1: Pop-Up Puppets —Make stick puppets of Jesus.	Craft sticks, small Jesus pattern (p. 90), tape, scissors, crayons	
	Option 2: Roll the Stone —Have fun rolling a ball into cardboard “caves.”	2 medium-sized boxes, masking tape, 1 or 2 playground balls	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Is Alive —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story from Luke 24.	Tissues, dish of water, flashlight	 
	Jesus Is Alive Song —Sing a lively song celebrating Jesus' life.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together and make crafts.	Blue and green construction paper, large Jesus and springtime patterns (pp. 90-91), scissors, tape, watercolor paints, paintbrush, white construction paper	 
	Sing It Out —Sing a lively song celebrating Jesus' life.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make pretty butterflies to remind them that Jesus is alive.	Paper plates, chenille wires, tape, crayons, stickers	
	Bible Game —Use their butterflies to do an action rhyme.	Butterflies from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Rolling Stones —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Small apples, knife, lemon juice, napkins, round crackers	

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

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), tape or safety pins, marker



- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child's clothing.
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that** ► Jesus is alive.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.

BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

If you wish to provide soothing background music as the children arrive, play a CD of your choice.

Option 1: Pop-Up Puppets

SUPPLIES: scissors, crayons, craft sticks, tape, small Jesus pattern (p. 90)

Before class, make a photocopy of the smaller Jesus pattern for each child. Cut out the figures.

Set out crayons. Hand each child a figure of Jesus and a craft stick. Invite children to color their figures with crayons. As children work, tell them they'll hear a special story about how some people thought Jesus wasn't alive but that ► Jesus is alive. Explain that God made Jesus alive again and that Jesus is with us all the time.

Tape each picture to a craft stick. Show children how to hide their pictures of Jesus with one hand and then slide Jesus above their hands by pushing upward on the sticks.

BIBLE POINT



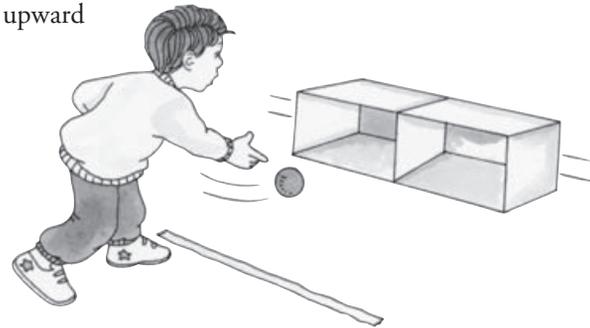
Option 2: Roll the Stone

SUPPLIES: 2 medium-sized boxes, masking tape, 1 or 2 playground balls

Before this activity, set two medium-sized boxes side by side against a wall with the open ends facing out. Tape a 4-foot piece of masking tape on the floor several feet from the boxes. Set out playground balls.

As children arrive, invite them to try rolling the "stones" (balls) into the "caves" (boxes). Have children stand behind the masking tape line and roll the balls toward the boxes. Encourage children to take turns rolling the balls.

As children play, tell them they'll hear a story about a time an angel rolled a stone away from a cave. Tell them that the stone was rolled away from the cave because ► Jesus is alive and with us.



BIBLE POINT



Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing "Let's Pick Up All Our Things." Use the CD (track 2), and sing the song to the tune of "Looby Loo."



After Pick-Up Time, accompany the children to the story area. Have the adults in the room join the children in the story area to show the children that this is an important time.



Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE



Say: **How do we know that Jesus is alive? Matthew 28 in the Bible tells us ► Jesus is alive.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's sing a song about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive

SUPPLIES: tissues, dish of water, flashlight



Before class begins, prepare your "Jesus Is Alive" StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



Before this activity, set tissues and a dish of water nearby. Set a flashlight, the StoryBoard figures of Jesus and the angel, and the eyedropper from Sensory Packet 2 beside you.

Fold the StoryBoard back so children see Panel 1, which shows two women and an angel. Say: **We'll hear a special Bible story today. Our story is about the first Easter, when people found out that ► Jesus is alive.**

Ask: • **What do you see in the picture?** (Ladies; crosses; an angel.)

Say: **Jesus' friends were sad. What do you do when you're sad?** Pause for responses. **You might cry when you're sad. Jesus' friends were crying. Let's wipe away their tears.**

Have children come to the StoryBoard in pairs. Use the eyedropper to force drops of water through the holes in the woman's eyes. Have children wipe the tears away with tissues.

Say: **Jesus' friends were thinking about the cross where Jesus had to hang. Can you find and touch the cross?** Have children touch the cross. Lead them in saying, "I'm sad" each time the cross is touched.

The women brought spices to care for Jesus' body. They loved Jesus. Scratch and sniff the sticker. **Mmm. Would you like to smell the spices?** Invite each child to scratch and sniff the spice sticker.

After Jesus died, he was put in a tomb, which is like a dark cave. Jesus' friends came to the tomb, and who did they see? Shine the flashlight behind the angel on Panel 1. **An angel! A bright angel stood by the tomb.** Encourage the children to touch the angel's robe.

Ask: • **How does the angel's robe feel?** (Soft; smooth.)

Say: **The angel said, "Don't be sad. Jesus isn't dead... ► Jesus is alive!"** Have children clap and repeat the Bible Point with you. **Let's peek inside the tomb and see if it's empty.**

Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard, which shows the tomb and the stone that rolls away. Hold the punch-out angel figure behind the opening in the StoryBoard. Point to the stone and ask:

• **Oh! What's in front of the tomb?** (A big rock.)

Say: **Jesus' friends saw that the stone was rolled away like this.** Show children how to roll the stone back and forth. **You can roll the stone away and peek inside.** Help each child roll the stone away. As he or she peeks inside the tomb, hold the angel in the hole and whisper: ► **Jesus is alive!** Replace the stone before the next child's turn. When everyone has finished, ask:

• **What did you see?** (An angel.)

• **What did the angel say?** ("Jesus is alive.")

Say: **Jesus' friends were happy, and they ran to tell their friends that ► Jesus is alive.** Let's see who they told.



If you have very young children in your class, ask them just to find and touch different items on each StoryBoard panel instead of doing this activity as written. Ask simple questions such as "Can you find the clouds? How do they feel?" "Where's Jesus?" and "Can you touch the angel?"





BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



Safety is essential when working with young children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests craft supplies and toys should be no smaller than a 50-cent piece (to avoid choking). Make sure electrical outlets are covered, electrical cords hidden, and all chemicals are out of reach of the children.



Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard, which shows a small group of people and clouds. Say: **Jesus' friends heard that ▶ Jesus is alive. They wanted to see Jesus and touch him. Suddenly, there was Jesus!** Hold up the StoryBoard figure of Jesus. **The people were scared. Hide your faces as if you're scared. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. It's me, Jesus. I'm alive!"** Let each child hold the StoryBoard figure of Jesus and say, ▶ **"Jesus is alive!"**

Later, Jesus was with his friends again. They took a walk together. Then Jesus said a prayer for his friends. He was going to live with God in heaven. The people waved goodbye. Let's help the man in the picture wave goodbye to Jesus. Have each child move the man's arm back and forth.

Then God lifted Jesus up, up, up to heaven. Slide the figure of Jesus through the slit in the clouds. **Wave, children! Goodbye! Jesus went up into the clouds of heaven. Let's feel the soft clouds.** Allow children to touch the clouds.

Ask: • **How do the clouds feel?** (Soft; fluffy.)

Say: **Jesus' friends thanked God that ▶ Jesus is alive!**

■ Jesus Is Alive Song

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing "We're Happy Jesus Is Alive" (track 4) to the tune of "London Bridge." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses as you sing.



Jesus is alive today.

Clap your hands. (*Clap your hands.*)

Shout "hooray!" (*Cup your hands around your mouth.*)

Jesus is alive today.

We're so happy. (*Turn around in place.*)

Jesus is alive today.

Touch your toes. (*Touch your toes.*)

Shout "hooray!" (*Cup your hands around your mouth.*)

Jesus is alive today.

We're so happy. (*Turn around in place.*)

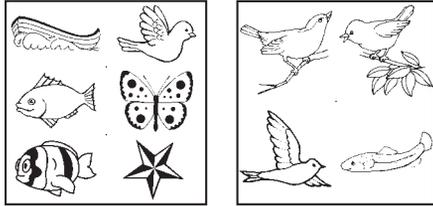
Repeat the song without using the CD. Using the suggestions below, change the second line of the song to create additional verses.

- Turn around.
- Pat your head.
- Touch your nose.
- Tip-tip-toe.

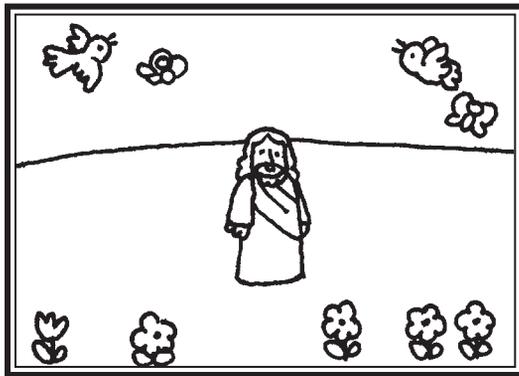
Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: blue and green construction paper, tape, large Jesus pattern (p. 90), springtime patterns (pp. 90-91), watercolor paints, paintbrush, white construction paper, scissors



Before class, cover the top portion of your bulletin board with blue paper. Cover the bottom portion of the bulletin board with green paper. Photocopy the larger pattern of Jesus and the springtime patterns at the end of this lesson. Cut out a springtime picture for each child.



Also, take the *sky and water rubbing plate* and the *birds and fish rubbing plate* from the Learning Lab and cut apart the pictures on the straight lines. You will be using the butterflies and birds in today's lesson.

Set the rubbing plates, a small dish of watercolor paint, a paintbrush, and heavy white construction paper cut into 4-inch squares on a small table near the bulletin board area, but out of reach of the children.

Lead children to the bulletin board, and bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Go through the following script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight.

Cuddles: Hi! I'm happy to be here. You all look happy, too. You must be having a good time and learning lots of exciting things. What did you learn today?

Teacher: We've been learning that ► Jesus is alive.

Cuddles: Yea! ► Jesus is alive! Flowers and baby animals are alive, too.

Teacher: Yes, there's lots of new life in the spring. Would you like to help us make a springtime bulletin board?

Cuddles: Yes! I like to help. What can I do?

Have Cuddles hand each child a springtime picture. Help children tape their pictures to the bulletin board. Encourage children to tell the names of their pictures.

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BIBLE POINT ▶

After the flowers, birds, and butterflies have been placed, hold up the picture of Jesus. Say: **Just as flowers and birds and butterflies are alive, ▶ Jesus is alive, too.** Have children point to the picture of Jesus. Lead them in saying ▶ **“Jesus is alive!”** as they touch his picture.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **Let’s make some of our own birds and butterflies to take home to remind us ▶ Jesus is alive!**

Gather the children around the table with the rubbing plates, paint, and paper. Quickly brush paint smoothly over each of the rubbing plates, and give each child a piece of the paper. Show them how to press the paper on the rubbing plate to make a picture of a bird or butterfly. Add more paint to the rubbing plates as needed until every child has a picture.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **Aren’t you glad the birds and butterflies are alive? Aren’t you glad ▶ Jesus is alive? Let’s sing a song to show how glad we are that ▶ Jesus is alive.**

■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We’re Happy Jesus Is Alive” (track 4) to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses as you sing.



Jesus is alive today.

Clap your hands. (*Clap your hands.*)

Shout “hooray!” (*Cup your hands around your mouth.*)

Jesus is alive today.

We’re so happy. (*Turn around in place.*)

Jesus is alive today.

Touch your toes. (*Touch your toes.*)

Shout “hooray!” (*Cup your hands around your mouth.*)

Jesus is alive today.

We’re so happy. (*Turn around in place.*)

Say: ▶ **Jesus is alive. And in the springtime, lots of things are alive. Let’s make a springtime butterfly and then pretend it’s alive.**



BIBLE POINT ▶



teacher tips

Young children often need a great deal of help and encouragement in taking turns. Gently remind them when it’s time to give another friend a turn. Reinforce children’s efforts to take turns with comments such as “I like how you’re taking turns with your friends” and “When we take turns, everyone has fun.”

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: crayons, stickers, tape, chenille wires, paper plates

Say: **We see lots of things in the springtime that are alive just as ► Jesus is alive.**

Ask: • **What's alive in the spring?** (Animals; birds; people; me.) If children need help thinking of answers, have them look at the bulletin board.

Say: **We have Easter in the spring, and Easter reminds us that Jesus is with us and he's alive. Butterflies can remind us of how glad we are that it's springtime and that ► Jesus is alive.**

Set out crayons, stickers, and tape. Hand each child a small chenille wire and a paper plate. Invite children to use crayons and stickers to decorate both sides of their paper plates. Help children fold their paper plates in half to make wings. Tape a bent chenille wire at one end on the fold to make the butterfly's antennae.

As children work, explain that butterflies come out of dark cocoons and become live butterflies. Point out that Jesus rose from a dark tomb and is alive. Remind children that ► Jesus is alive and that's why we celebrate Easter.

Show children how to hold the back of their paper plates and open and close their hands to make the butterflies' wings flap. Allow children to "fly" their butterflies around the room. Then say: **Let's use our butterflies to play a game.**

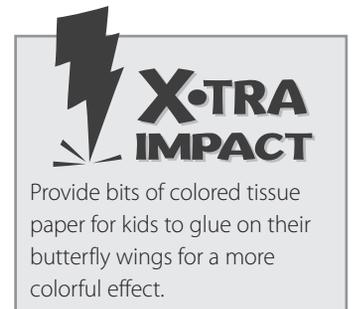
■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: butterflies from previous activity

Encourage children to use their butterflies to act out the following rhyme. Encourage children to fly their butterflies high and low around the room.

**Butterfly, flutter by,
Flip, dip, and dive.
Be happy, little butterfly—
Jesus is alive!**

Repeat the action rhyme a few times. Then say: **now let's have our butterflies stop for a rest.** Help children land their butterflies next to a wall. Assure children that their butterflies will go home with them later. **Let's "fly" to the snack table like pretend butterflies.**



Closing

Rolling Stones

SUPPLIES: apples, lemon juice, knife, round crackers, napkins

Before class, cut small apples in half crosswise. Hollow out the cores. Rub the apple halves with a bit of lemon juice to prevent them from turning brown.

Gather children at the snack table. Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus' friends went to the tomb where Jesus had been. But they found the stone rolled away.**

Ask: • **Did they find Jesus inside?** (No.)



Say: **Jesus wasn't in the tomb because ► Jesus is alive! Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. Then he came back to life, and he lives in heaven. If we believe in Jesus, someday we can live in heaven, too! Let's pray and thank God that ► Jesus is alive. Pray: Dear God, thank you for making Jesus alive. Amen.**

I have an apple for each of you. It's shaped like the tomb where Jesus was. And I have a stone for you, too. Hand each child an apple half and a round cracker on a napkin. Show children how to place the cracker over the hollow of the apple half. Have them roll their "stones" away and peek inside the empty "caves."

Ask: • **Is anything in your cave?** (No, nothing's there!)

• **Why wasn't Jesus in the cave?** (Because Jesus is alive!)

Invite children to roll their stones away once more while saying, ► **"Jesus is alive."** Let children eat their cracker stones and apple caves.

Remind children to take their butterflies home as well as their pop-up puppets if you chose to do Option 1.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Parent Page" handout (p. 78) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module'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.

■ **Rock 'n' Roll**

Play a fun game called Rock 'n' Roll to give children a chance to practice saying the Bible Point. Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Hold up a playground ball and tell children it's a stone. Roll the "stone" to someone. Tell that person to hold the stone and say, ► "Jesus is alive!" Then have that child roll the stone to another person.

■ **Flutter-Bys**

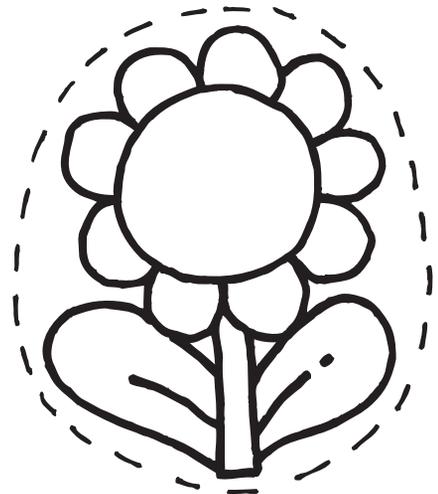
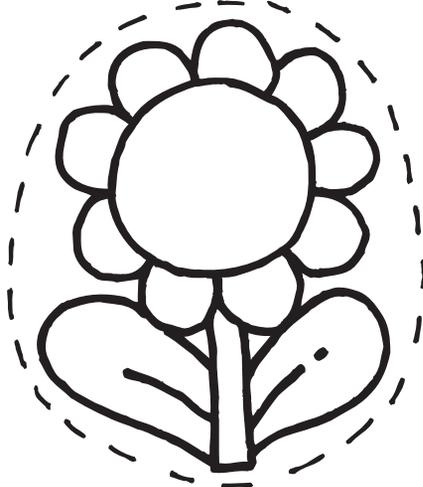
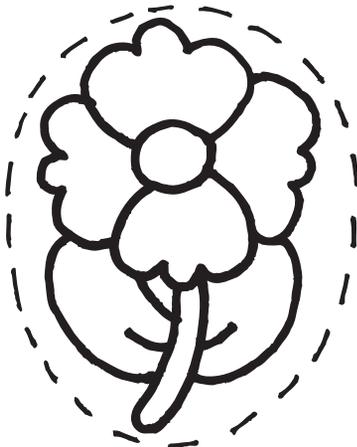
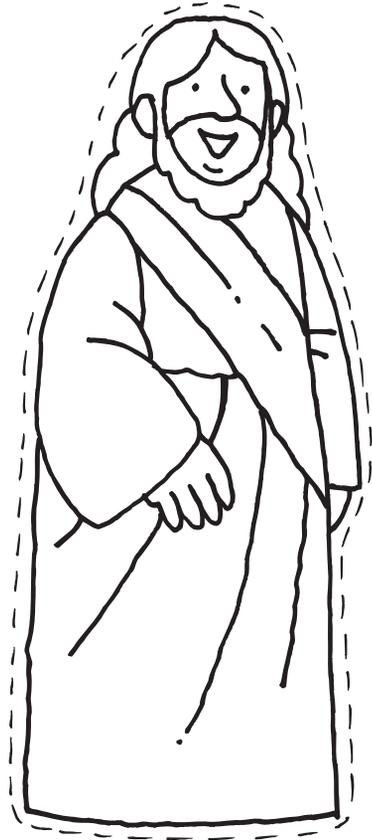
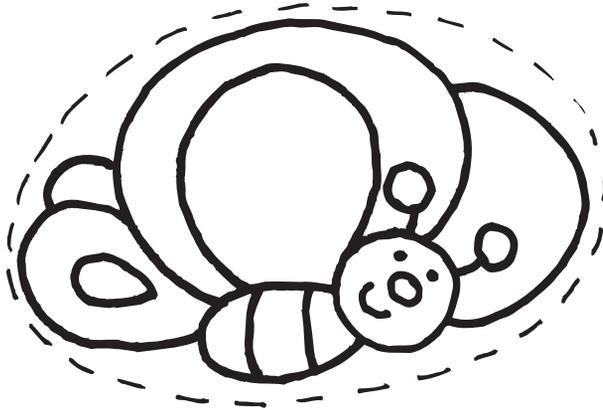
Encourage the children to let their imaginations "fly" by turning into make-believe butterflies. Invite children to "fly" around the room as you lead them in repeating the rhyme they learned in the Bible Game.

**Butterfly, flutter by,
Flip, dip, and dive.
Be happy, little butterfly—
Jesus is alive!**

Act like you're wrapped tightly in a dark cocoon, and then burst forth alive and free like a springtime butterfly. Then have the children follow your motions. Remind children that just as butterflies come out of cocoons, Jesus came out of the tomb because ► Jesus is alive.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

