

Bible Point ▶

Jesus is alive.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that Jesus is alive,
 - understand that Jesus is always with them,
 - explore the kinds of houses they live in now, and
 - realize that someday they'll live in heaven with Jesus.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- We can live with Jesus, too.

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



In Luke 24:50-53 we read that the Lord ascended majestically into heaven. Over the 40 days prior to this, Jesus appeared numerous times to his disciples, spending time with them as friends, teaching them from the Scriptures, and giving them instructions for the future. He also promised to be present with them always (Matthew 28:20). Jesus' presence with us now is a great comfort, as is the hope we have of one day joining him in heaven. Toddlers and 2s will be excited to learn that Jesus loves them and is preparing a very special place for them in heaven.

Prayer

- Read John 14:1-4.
- In what ways have you experienced Jesus' comforting presence in your life?
- How does the promise of one day joining Jesus in heaven help us face the difficulties of life?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for your comforting presence the time when... Help the children in my class today understand how you are present with us now, and help them be excited about the special place you are preparing for them in heaven.



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.

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.

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: Houses and Home —Build different kinds of houses.	Building blocks	
	Option 2: Cloud Capers —Play in fluffy white “clouds.”	Large boxes, glue, batting or fiberfill, scissors	
	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 of Jesus’ ascension from Luke 24.	Flashlight, large Jesus and children patterns (pp. 91 and 127), colored dessert-size paper plates, glue sticks, permanent marker, yarn, crayons, cotton balls, hole punch	 
	Our Friend Jesus —Sing a song, and learn that Jesus loves them.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	House patterns (p. 115), scissors, tape	 
	Sing It Out —Sing a song, and learn that Jesus loves them.	CD player	 
	Bible Craft —Make two-sided houses to show where they live and where Jesus lives.	Special house pattern (p. 116), scissors, tape, glue sticks, cotton balls, crayons, marker	
	Bible Game —Learn an action rhyme about how God lifted Jesus to heaven.		
Closing 	Light as a Cloud —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Graham crackers, plastic spoon, whipped cream, napkins	

*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**



Option 1: Houses and Home

SUPPLIES: building blocks

Set building blocks in one area of the room. As children arrive, invite them to build different kinds of houses. Ask questions such as "What's the best thing about your home?" and "Isn't it good to have a nice place to live?" Tell children that today they'll hear a story about the special place Jesus went to live. Remind children that ► Jesus is alive and that he's with us all the time.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Option 2: Cloud Capers

SUPPLIES: large boxes, scissors, fiberfill or cotton batting, glue

Before class, collect two boxes large enough for children to slip over their bodies. Remove the flaps from both ends. Glue fiberfill or cotton batting to the outsides of the boxes.

Invite children to take turns standing, sitting, and crawling through the "clouds." Let children hold the clouds over their heads and pull them down as if they're rising into the clouds. Tell children that they'll hear a story about how Jesus went through beautiful clouds to live in heaven with God. Remind children that ► Jesus is alive and fluffy clouds remind us that Jesus went to live in heaven with God.



◀ **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."



SING

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: **Jesus is alive! How do we know that? The Bible tells us in Matthew 28: ▶ 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 the children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



SING

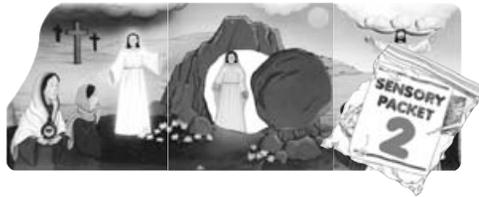
**This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done,
And his love for me!**

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive

SUPPLIES: flashlight, children patterns (p. 127), large Jesus figure pattern (p. 91), colored paper dessert plates, glue sticks, permanent marker, yarn, crayons, cotton balls, hole punch



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before class, make copies of the large Jesus pattern from Lesson 5 and the children patterns from Lesson 8. For each child you'll need one child figure, one Jesus figure, and one colored dessert-size paper plate.

At the top of each plate, with a permanent marker write the words "I can live with Jesus." Punch a hole in the top of each plate, and attach a piece of yarn about 18 to 20 inches long so the plates can hang around the children's necks to take home. You may want to write children's names on the back of the plates to save time during class. (Be sure to make a few extras for visitors.) You'll use these supplies later in the activity.

Panels 1 and 2



Before you begin, be sure the stone is in place over the tomb in Panel 2. Place a flashlight beside you.

Hold the StoryBoard open so children can see Panels 1 and 2.

Say: **We've been learning that ▶ Jesus is alive.** **Let's see if you can find some of our Bible story pictures.** Choose one or two children to point to each of the following pictures on the StoryBoard and follow the directions with each one:



BIBLE POINT ▶

- the cross that Jesus died on (touch the sandpaper);
- Jesus' sad friends who came to the tomb (point to the women);
- the jar of spices the women brought (sniff the sticker);
- the bright angel who said, "Jesus is alive" (shine a flashlight through the angel's sleeves);
- the soft, white angel's robe (touch the angel's sleeves);
- the stone at the tomb (roll away the stone); and
- the tomb or cave that Jesus was put in. (Hand a child the flashlight with the light turned on. Let him or her peek inside the tomb. When the light shines on the punch-out angel, whisper: ► ***Jesus is alive.*** Then hand the flashlight to another child. Continue until each child has had a chance to peek in the tomb.)

Ask: • **What did you see in the cave?** (An angel; nothing.)

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

Say: **We know that Jesus is with us all the time, no matter where we are.**

Ask: • **Where do you live?** (In a house; in an apartment.)

• **Who lives with you?** (Mommy and Daddy; my family; my brothers and sisters.)

Say: **Let's see where Jesus went to live.**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Panel 3



Reveal Panel 3 of the StoryBoard.

Ask: • **What do you see in this picture?** (People; clouds.)

• **Can you find and touch the clouds?** Hold the StoryBoard down so that each child can touch the clouds.

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

Say: **It was a pretty day with clouds in the sky. Lots of people heard that ► *Jesus is alive.* They wanted to see Jesus. What do we see with? Have children point to their eyes. They wanted to touch Jesus. What do we touch things with? Have children wiggle their fingers. Jesus appeared to his friends many times! They could see Jesus and touch him. Let's clap because ► *Jesus is alive.* Lead children in clapping.**

Jesus talked with the people. Make talking motions with your fingers. **Jesus walked with the people.** Have children stand up, walk in place, and sit down again. **And Jesus ate with them.** Make chewing motions with your mouth. **Then Jesus prayed for the people.** Have children kneel and fold their hands.

Soon it was time for Jesus to go home to live with God. The people waved goodbye. Let's wave goodbye, too. Pause while children wave. **Then God lifted Jesus up, up, up to heaven.** Slide the StoryBoard figure of Jesus up through the slit in the clouds. **Jesus went to heaven to live with God. Let's help Jesus go to heaven.** Help each child slide the figure of Jesus through the slit in the StoryBoard.

After everyone has had a turn, say: **Jesus went to heaven to make a special place for us to live someday. Let's make something to help us remember that.**

Set out the paper plates, glue sticks, crayons, the copied figures, and cotton balls.

Let each child choose a child figure that is like himself or herself. Have them color the children figures and the Jesus figures. Help the children glue the figures to the center of the plates and then the cotton-ball clouds toward the top.

Say: ► ***Jesus is alive!* He's with us every day, and he wants us to come and live with him in heaven someday.**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**





BIBLE POINT

Set the plates aside until the children are ready to wear them home.

Say: ► ***Jesus is alive, and we can live with him someday in heaven. But Jesus is with us now, too. Jesus can do that because he's special. And ► Jesus is alive.*** Have children clap and repeat the Bible Point.

Let's sing a fun song to celebrate that ► ***Jesus is alive.***



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

Our Friend Jesus

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 5), lead children in singing "Jesus Is Alive" (adapted from Matthew 28:6) to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."



SING

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive;

We want you to know. (Point to someone on the word "you.")

He loves me; he loves you. (Point to self; point outward.)

He loves everybody, too. (Point outward and turn in circle.)

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive;

We want you to know. (Point to someone on the word "you.")

He loves me; he loves you. (Point to self; point outward.)

He loves everybody, too. (Point outward and turn in circle.)

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.



BIBLE POINT

Say: **We know that ► Jesus is alive. We know that God took Jesus to live in heaven. We also know that Jesus is here with us now. Jesus lives in both places because he's special. Let's put some special places on our bulletin board.**

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board



SUPPLIES: house patterns (p. 115), scissors, tape

Before class, photocopy the house patterns and cut out a house for each child.





Lead children to the bulletin board, and bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: Hi, boys and girls. Do you remember my name? (*Pause while children respond.*) What did you learn today?

Teacher: We learned that ► Jesus is alive. Children, can you tell Cuddles where Jesus lives? (*Encourage children to tell Cuddles that Jesus lives in heaven and that Jesus lives with us, too.*)

Cuddles: How can Jesus be everywhere?

Teacher: Because Jesus is special!

Cuddles: Jesus *is* special. I don't live in heaven; *I* live in a cozy barn. I have a poster with a barn on it. Why don't I get it out for you to look at?

Have Cuddles help you lay the "Animals" poster barn-side up in the middle of the kids. Place the animals from the poster on the floor, as well. Place some with farm animals up and others with jungle animals up.

Cuddles: Can you point to the barn? Can you find animals that would live in a barn with me? (*Encourage children to look at both sides of the poster pieces to find the farm animals and place them on the barn.*)

Turn the "Animals" poster over to the jungle side. Place the animals back on the floor.

Cuddles: Can you point to the trees? Can you point to the water? Can you find animals that would live in and around the trees and the water? (*Encourage children to look at both sides of the poster pieces to find the jungle animals and place them on the poster.*)

Teacher: Children, where do we live? (*Encourage children to tell Cuddles that we live in houses.*) We're going to add houses to our bulletin board. You can help, Cuddles.

Cuddles: I like to help my friends.

Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a house. Help children tape their pictures on the bulletin board. Each time a picture is placed, lead children in saying, "Jesus is with me."

Cuddles: Where I live, everyone gives each other lamb-hugs to show our love. Can I give each of you a lamb-hug, too?

Have Cuddles give each child a cuddly hug and say, "I love you."

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Say: ► Jesus is alive. He lives in heaven, and he's here with us, too. We live in houses now, but someday we can live with Jesus in heaven. That makes me so happy I could sing!



Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 5), have Cuddles lead the children in singing “Jesus Is Alive” (adapted from Matthew 28:6) to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.” When you’ve finished, set Cuddles away out of sight.



SING

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive;

We want you to know. (Point to someone on the word “you.”)

He loves me; he loves you. (Point to self; point outward.)

He loves everybody, too. (Point outward and turn in circle.)

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.

Our friend Jesus is alive;

We want you to know. (Point to someone on the word “you.”)

He loves me; he loves you. (Point to self; point outward.)

He loves everybody, too. (Point outward and turn in circle.)

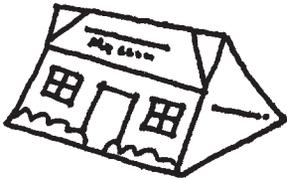
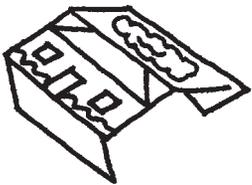
Our friend Jesus is alive. (Clap in time to the music.)

E-I-E-I-O.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶ ***Jesus is alive.*** and he lives in heaven. Jesus is making a special place for us in heaven, too. Someday we’ll get to see where Jesus lives. But right now, let’s make two special homes.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: special house pattern (p. 116), scissors, crayons, cotton balls, glue sticks, tape, marker

Before this activity, photocopy the special house pattern. Cut out a house pattern for each child.

Set out crayons, cotton balls, glue sticks, and tape. Hand each child a house cutout, and invite children to color the cutouts. Write each child’s name on the roof. Then tell children to turn the house pictures around and use glue sticks to glue cotton balls on their cloud shapes. Help children fold their houses on the dotted lines to make triangles. Tape the bottom edges together so the houses will stand up.

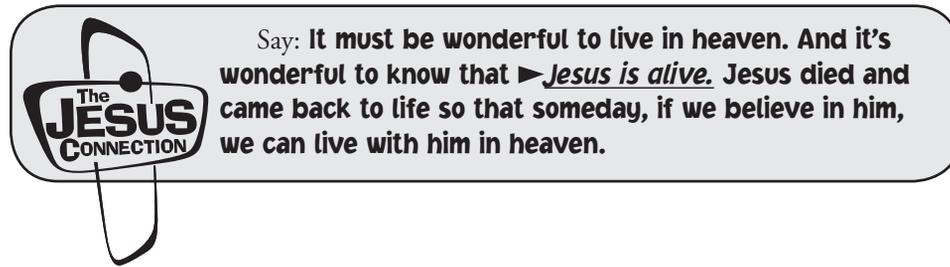
Tell children that we live in houses like the pictures of the houses. Flip the houses around, and remind children that ▶ ***Jesus is alive*** and lives with God in heaven. Say: **Jesus is making a special place for us in heaven. Someday we’ll live with Jesus and get to see his home. But right now, let’s learn a fun rhyme about how God brought Jesus home to heaven.**

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: none

Lead children in the action rhyme below. Say the rhyme slowly so that children have time to imitate your actions and words. Toddlers love repetition, so go through the rhyme two or three times.

Up on a mountain (*stand on tiptoe, and place your arms over your head*)
Jesus said goodbye. (*Wave goodbye.*)
Then God took him home (*squat down, and slowly stand up*)
To heaven in the sky. (*Stand on tiptoe, and point upward.*)



Let's walk on our tiptoes like little heavenly clouds. Lead children around the room. Encourage them to let their arms float like clouds. After you've "floated" around the room, say: **now let's softly land at the snack table.**

Closing

■ Light as a Cloud

SUPPLIES: graham crackers, napkins, whipped cream, plastic spoon

When children are seated at the snack table, say: **We've learned that ► Jesus is alive. We've also learned that Jesus lives in heaven with God and that someday we can live with Jesus, too. Let's thank God that ► Jesus is alive. Show me your prayer hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for your love. Thank you that ► Jesus is alive. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Hand each child a graham cracker on a napkin. Say: **Let's make fluffy clouds to eat.** Help each child place a small dollop of whipped cream on his or her graham cracker. After children have enjoyed their snacks, encourage them to float like clouds to the wastebasket and throw away their napkins.

As children are leaving, be sure they take home their house projects and decorated plates. Encourage them to tell their families that ► Jesus is alive.





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.

■ *Jesus Is Alive*

Without using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “We’re Happy Jesus Is Alive” to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



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.*)

■ *Action-Rhyme Fun*

Practice the rhyme children learned in the Bible Game.

Up on a mountain (*stand on tiptoe, and place your arms over your head*)

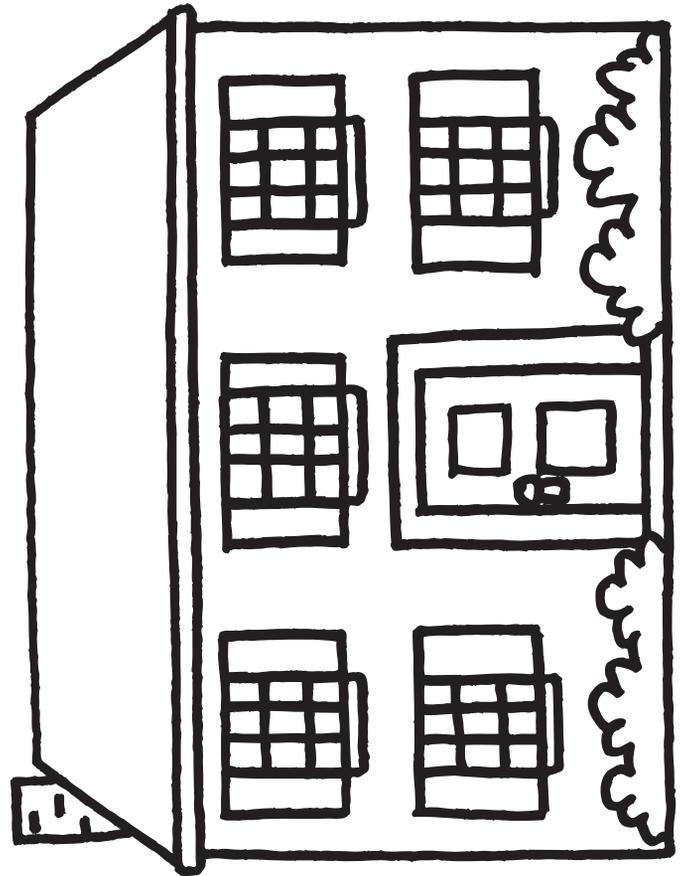
Jesus said goodbye. (*Wave goodbye.*)

Then God took him home (*squat down, and slowly stand up*)

To heaven in the sky. (*Stand on tiptoe, and point upward.*)

Patterns

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



Pattern

Fold

