



The Resurrection: Jesus Lives

**Lesson Aim: To know Jesus died to save us
and then rose to life.**

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 20:1-18

What He has done: Jesus died to save us and was raised from the dead.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "He has risen."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save." Zephaniah 3:17a

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:9-10	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To respond to calls for help.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:13-15	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God wants us to share with others.
14	Paul and Silas in Prison, Acts 16:25-26	God freed Paul and Silas from prison.	To learn to praise the Lord everywhere, every day in good times and bad times.
15	The Resurrection: Jesus Lives, John 20:1-18	Jesus died to save us and was raised from the dead.	To know Jesus died to save us and then rose to life.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-4; Romans 16:3-5a	God gave Paul friends who worked, served, and taught with him.	To know we can work and serve the Lord together.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for us. Thank You, Father God, for raising Jesus from the dead. Help the children understand and celebrate who You are and what You have done! Amen."



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Stamp or sticker of a cross
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "He has risen."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "He Is Mighty to Save" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Everyone Who Calls" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "God Is So Good" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Sunday School Songs by Songtime Kids America's 25 Favorite Praise & Worship Choruses for Kids by Brentwood Kids
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 15
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 20:1-18	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:1 Visual: Cross
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Jesus' Empty Tomb	Paper plate, sturdy brown paper, assorted craft supplies (buttons, craft gems, yarn, beads, ribbon, etc.), glue or tape, stapler, staples, crayons or markers, optional: yarn, hole punch
		Game: The Tomb Is Empty	Bed sheets or blankets, chairs or tables
		Game: Easter Symbols	Pictures of a heart, cross, the number "3" printed on a picture of a sun, sandals, and a rock
		Snack: "Rolled Away" Cookies	Round sugar cookies
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 15 Color This Story: "Jesus Is Risen!"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 20:1-18	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Cheer	None
	Up to 10	Game: The Lord Is with You	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the very first Easter (Jesus' resurrection).

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



He has risen

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a cross. **Let this stamp or sticker of a cross help you remember Jesus is alive. Today's Whisper Verse is "He has risen."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "He has risen."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| "He (Jesus)" | The middle finger of one hand touches the middle of the palm of the other hand, then the same is repeated using the middle finger of the other hand. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross. |
| "(has) risen." | Both hands, palms facing up, are raised to represent something being moved upward. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "He has risen," Mark 16:6. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who saves us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who saves us! We have been learning stories about Paul telling everyone the good news about Jesus. Easter is a special day when we celebrate the good news that Jesus gave His life to save us, and now He lives forever. He died on the cross and then was placed in a tomb. Three days later, His friends went to His tomb, but Jesus wasn't there. He had risen to life. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: "He has risen." Include sign language.



Jesus rose to life. Mary saw Him. Peter and John saw Him. Many followers saw Him before God lifted Him up to heaven. That's where Jesus lives today. Jesus will live forever! Let's honor Jesus by singing about His greatness as we give our money offering. Sing: "How Great Is Our God" while collecting the offering.

We celebrate Easter because we are happy Jesus is alive. Let's praise Him now. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."



Let's see how Delbert & Lello are celebrating Easter! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 15.



Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved and have a life forever close to God. When we call on Jesus, He saves us! Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."

Jesus is mighty to save all who believe in Him. That's good news! After Jesus died and was buried, God raised Him back to life. Jesus is alive and His Spirit is with us right now. That's good news, too! Let's celebrate! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."



Jesus' friends knew He was alive

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Paul and Silas praised God. They told everyone the good news about Jesus. Today we will celebrate the good news that Jesus has risen. He is alive! Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 20:1.

WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 20:1-18

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a cross or a picture of a cross. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **Jesus came to save the world.**
- **He died for every boy and girl.**
- **He died on the cross for me and you.**
- **They placed His body in a tomb.**

- **They closed the tomb with a heavy stone.**
- **His friends were sad—they felt alone.**
- **Mary came back on the third day.**
- **She saw the stone was rolled away.**

- **Mary ran to tell Peter and John!**
- **They ran and saw that Jesus was gone!**
- **Peter wondered where Jesus could be.**
- **John looked inside and he believed.**

- **Mary saw Jesus with her own eyes!**
- **She ran to tell others about this surprise.**
- **"I've seen the Lord," Mary said.**
- **"He has risen from the dead!"**



Who went to the tomb first? (Mary.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read John 20:1 from the teacher's Bible.

Jesus was not in the tomb. Is Jesus alive? (Yes.) Our Whisper Verse tells us He has risen. Let's say it together: "He has risen!" Include sign language or hand motions.



We know Jesus is alive

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: JESUS' EMPTY TOMB

Purpose: To remind the children that Jesus is alive and His tomb is empty.

Supplies: Paper plate, sturdy brown paper, assorted craft supplies (buttons, craft gems, yarn, beads, ribbon, etc.), glue or tape, stapler, staples, crayons or markers, optional: yarn, hole punch

Prepare: Cut the paper plate in half. Cut a half circle from the straight edge of one of the plate halves to create the tomb entrance. Place the round edges of the paper plate halves together so they are flush, creating a space between the plate halves. Staple the round edges of the plate halves together. Cut a rock shape from sturdy brown paper about the size of the tomb entrance. On the outside of the tomb, print: **"He has risen!" John 20:1-18**

Optional: Punch a hole in the top of the tomb and thread with yarn to make a hanger.

Directions:

1. Decorate Jesus' tomb with the craft supplies and crayons or markers.
2. Glue or tape the paper rock near the entrance of the tomb.

Craft Discussion:

- **On the very first Easter morning, Jesus' friends went to His tomb. Did they find Jesus in the tomb?** (No.)
- **Peek inside the entrance to your Empty Tomb craft. It is empty, just like Jesus' tomb was empty when His friends looked inside.**
- **Why was the tomb empty?** (Jesus had risen! He is alive!) **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

Purpose: Children will pretend to be Jesus' friends and discover Jesus is no longer in the tomb.

Supplies: Bed sheets or blankets, chairs or tables

Prepare: Drape the bed sheets or blankets over chairs or tables to create a cave-like tomb.

Directions:

1. Seat all the children at the opposite end of the play area, away from the tomb.
2. Say to one of the children: "Child's name, **come look in the tomb!**"
3. Child runs to the tomb and peaks inside.
4. Child runs back to the other children and says, "**The tomb is empty!**"
5. The other children say the Whisper Verse with the hand motions, "**He has risen!**"
6. Play until each child has a turn.

GAME: EASTER SYMBOLS

Purpose: Children will recognize different objects to help them remember Jesus' resurrection.

Supplies: Pictures of a heart, cross, the number "3" printed on a picture of a sun, sandals, and a rock

Prepare: Hide the pictures around the room where the children can find them.

I have put some special symbols in this room. Each symbol can help us remember the story of Easter!

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Choose a child to find each of the pictures below and explain its meaning.
 - Cross: **Jesus died on the cross to save us.**
 - The number "3" printed on the sun: **Three days later, God raised Jesus back to life.**
 - Sandals: **Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends that the tomb was empty.**
 - Rock: **The stone was rolled away from the tomb. Jesus was not there! He had risen. He is alive!**
3. Choose a child to find the heart picture.
4. Children pass the heart shape around the circle. As each child holds the heart, all say: "**Jesus loves child holding heart.**"
5. Play again, if time allows.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: "ROLLED AWAY" COOKIES

Purpose: Children will imagine their cookies are the stone in front of Jesus' tomb.

Snack Suggestion: Round sugar cookies

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Our round cookies look like the round stone in front of Jesus' tomb. Pretend your cookie is in front of the tomb and then roll it away!**
 - **When Jesus' friends looked for Him, was He in the tomb?** (No.)
 - **Did they know where Jesus went?** (No.)
 - **What happened to Jesus?** (He had risen.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer!**
Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "He has risen."
 - **Jesus wasn't in the tomb because He is alive!**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). **We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Jesus' Empty Tomb" craft. Ask someone to peek into the tomb. Then, tell them it is empty because Jesus has risen. He is alive!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jesus gave His life to save us and then came back to life!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Is Risen!" Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "He Is Mighty to Save," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOHN 20:1-18

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus came to save the world.** (Point to heaven.)
- **He died for every boy and girl.** (Point to other children.)
- **He died on the cross for me and you.** (Spread arms.)
- **They placed His body in a tomb.** (Cup hands with palms up.)

- **They closed the tomb with a heavy stone.** (Close palms as closing an entrance.)
- **His friends were sad—they felt alone.** (Make a sad face.)
- **Mary came back on the third day.** (Raise three fingers.)
- **She saw the stone was rolled away.** (Hands on cheeks with look of surprise.)

- **Mary ran to tell Peter and John!** (Run in place.)
- **They ran and saw that Jesus was gone!** (Run in place.)
- **Peter wondered where Jesus could be.** (Shrug shoulders, palms up.)
- **John looked inside and he believed.** (Cup hands around eyes as eyeglasses.)

- **Mary saw Jesus with her own eyes!** (Point to eyes.)
- **She ran to tell others about this surprise.** (Run in place.)
- **"I've seen the Lord," Mary said.** (Point to self.)
- **"He has risen from the dead!"** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save." Zephaniah 3:17a

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHEER

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Practice the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Divide children into two groups. Each group stands on opposite ends of the play area.
3. Group 1 whispers, **"The Lord your God is with you."**
4. Group 2 whispers back, **"He is mighty to save."**
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three more times, getting louder each time, until the children are using their strongest voices.
6. Have the groups switch phrases and play again.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Practice the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Divide children into two groups. Each group stands on opposite sides of the play area and holds hands. A teacher or helper should be with each group.
3. Group 1 says to Group 2, "**The Lord your God is with** Group 1 teacher or helper names a child in Group 2."
4. That child runs to Group 1, says, "**He is mighty to save,**" and joins the group.
5. Group 2 then says to Group 1, "**The Lord your God is with** Group 2 teacher or helper names a child in Group 1."
6. The child runs to Group 2, says, "**He is mighty to save,**" and joins the group.
7. Repeat until every child has switched groups.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about the very first Easter (Jesus' resurrection).

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 15: The Resurrection: Jesus Lives

PONDER! Read John 20:1-18 with your family. Who went to the tomb first? What did Jesus' friends see? Was Jesus in the tomb? Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. His friends lay His body in the tomb. Three days later, God brought Jesus back to life. The tomb is empty. He has risen! He lives forever!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me. Thank You, God, for raising Your Son Jesus back to life. Amen."

PLAY! Easter is a special holiday when believers celebrate that Jesus is alive. How does your family celebrate Easter? What are some special ways you and your family can remember Jesus is alive? Teach someone today's Whisper Verse: "He has risen." Tell each other the story of how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life.

Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse:

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save." Zephaniah 3:17a