



The Miracle of Easter

Lesson Aim: To learn God raised Jesus to life
 and Jesus lives forever.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: Jesus as Lord

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 28:1-7

What He Has Done: God raised Lord Jesus to life after He died for us.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37a

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord

	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Jesus and the Children, Mark 10:13-16	Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him.	To know children are important to Jesus. He wants them to come to Him.
12	Jesus Cares for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, John 11:3-4, 21-23, 32-44	Jesus wept when He saw their sorrow.	To see when we are sad, Jesus is sad for us.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Mark 11:1-10	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	To praise Jesus as they did when He rode into Jerusalem.
14	The Miracle of Easter, Matthew 28:1-7	God raised Lord Jesus to life after He died for us.	To learn God raised Jesus to life and Jesus lives forever.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-14	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To show Jesus proved He was alive after God raised Him to life.
16	Jesus Goes Up to Heaven, Luke 24:50-53	Jesus blessed His disciples and was lifted up to heaven.	To know where Jesus is.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Colossians 2:13-15. Please join us in praying, "Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life to save us from our sins. May the children believe and receive the gift of eternal life. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Children may arrive filled with excitement and stories of the Easter bunny, Easter baskets, and candy. Families celebrate Easter in different ways, so we ask you to not talk about the Easter bunny with the children. Instead, let's focus on the reason for Easter-Jesus and His resurrection.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME		Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Coloring Center: The Miracle of Easter	Coloring pages of the empty tomb or of Jesus risen from the dead, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: The Stone Was Rolled Away	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Music Center: Easter Celebration	Praise songs
		Bible Memory Verse Center: Love the Lord	Red balloon
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 14
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Matthew 28:1-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 28:6 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, plastic Easter egg
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: He Has Risen!	Standard-size sturdy green paper, sturdy white and gray paper, sturdy brown paper (or sandpaper), glue or glue sticks, crayons, optional: paper fastener, tape, or glue
		Game: "Quickly, Go and Tell!"	None
		Game: What's Next?	Easter basket, symbols of a heart, cross, linen cloth strip, stone, angel, and sandals
		Snack: New Life	Dyed Easter eggs, round sugar cookies
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 14
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 28:1-7	None
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Circle	None
	Up to 10	Game: I See Someone Jesus Loves	Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Jesus living forever

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as Lord

THE WELCOME

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 the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a cross. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cross remind you that Jesus lives forever.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: THE MIRACLE OF EASTER

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of the empty tomb or of Jesus risen from the dead, crayons

DO

Children color while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we celebrate Easter; it is the day we remember Jesus died on the cross to save the world, but then came back to life three days later. It was a miracle. Jesus is alive! Do you know where Jesus is now? (Heaven.) Even though we can't see Him, He lives forever in the hearts of everyone who believes in Him.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children roll play-dough into balls (stones) while discussing the meaning of Easter.

TALK ABOUT

Show children how to roll the play-dough into balls. Experiment with making different sizes. Ask them to place the balls in order by size and ask questions such as "Which is the biggest? Smallest?" **These play-dough balls remind me of the stone that was rolled away. Today, we celebrate Easter and remember that Jesus died on the cross for us, but then three days later, came back to life. It was a miracle! When Jesus' friends went to the tomb where His body had been laid, they found the stone was rolled away. An angel told them Jesus was alive!**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

MUSIC CENTER: EASTER CELEBRATION

SUPPLIES

Praise songs

DO

Play praise songs as the children celebrate Easter. Encourage children to dance when the music is playing. Periodically stop the music and have the children freeze in place and shout, "Happy Easter!"

TALK ABOUT

Today, we celebrate Easter as we remember the day Jesus rose to life. Let's sing and dance in celebration. When the music stops, I want you to freeze in place and shout, "Happy Easter!"

Optional: After a time, change what the children say to "Jesus is alive!" or "Jesus loves you!"

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CENTER: LOVE THE LORD

SUPPLIES

Red balloon

DO

Children take turns bopping the balloon into the air while saying the Bible Memory Verse.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart," Matthew 22:37a. Let's pretend this red balloon is our love for God. We can send our love up to Him as we say Bible Memory Verse together. Each time a child bops the balloon, say one word or one phrase of the Bible Memory Verse.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as Lord

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time! Let's bow our heads and pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Easter to remember the day You rose again. We praise You as our Lord and King. Amen.**



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus as Lord. Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."

Jesus died on the cross for you and for me. Three days later, God raised Jesus back to life. Easter is the day when believers from all over the world celebrate that miracle. It is the most important of Jesus' miracles to remember. Sing: "I Will Remember" while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about the miracle of Easter. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 14.



God loves you with all His heart. He wants us to love Him, too. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together with the motions. Practice a few times with the sign language.

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



We want everyone to know about the miracle of Easter. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."



God raised Jesus to life

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 28:6, picture of the Bible story, plastic Easter egg

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

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold up the Easter egg. **Who can tell me what this is?** (Easter egg.) **Easter eggs come in all colors and sizes. What color is this egg?** (Children respond.) **What do you usually find in an Easter egg?** (Candy, toys.) **Let's open it.** Open it and show them it is empty. **There's nothing in there. It's empty! This empty egg reminds me of today's story. We will hear about the time Jesus' friends found an empty tomb. Let's listen.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 28:6.



WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 28:1-7

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jesus came to save the world;**
- **He died for every boy and girl.**
- **He died on the cross for me and you,**
- **And then, they buried Him in a tomb.**

- **They sealed the tomb with a heavy stone.**
- **His friends were sad; they felt alone.**
- **Three days later, the stone rolled away,**
- **And women there heard the angel say,**

- **"He is not here. He has risen today.**
- **Come see the place where Jesus lay.**
- **Quickly go tell others that He's not dead,**
- **For Jesus has risen, just as He said!"**

What did Jesus' friends find when they came to the tomb on the third day? (The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.) **What did the angel say about Jesus when the stone rolled away?** ("Jesus is alive!")



Tell everyone Jesus lives forever

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: HE HAS RISEN!

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Easter using their depiction of the cross, angel and the stone actually rolling away.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy green paper, sturdy white and gray paper, sturdy brown paper (or sandpaper), glue or glue sticks, crayons, optional: paper fastener, tape, or glue

Prepare: In the upper left corner of the green paper, draw a hill with a dotted outline of cross. In the center of the paper, trace a 4-inch circle. Cut a 4-inch circle from sturdy gray paper. For a cross, cut a 2 inch x 1-inch strip and a 4-inch x 1-inch strip from sturdy brown paper or sandpaper. Draw and cut an angel shape from white paper. Print on the robe of the angel: **"He Has Risen!" Matthew 28:6**. Punch a hole in the bottom of the gray circle and below the circle on the green paper.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: The above craft was developed for ages 4-5. To adapt the craft for younger children, you may choose to eliminate the paper fastener and use tape or glue to attach the gray circle on one side so children can lift the stone to reveal the angel in the empty tomb.

Optional Template: A craft template is available for this lesson at ResourceWell.org.

Directions:

1. Use a brown, gray, or black crayon to color the 4-inch circle on the green paper to make the inside of the empty tomb.
2. Glue the two brown paper (or sandpaper) strips on the dotted outline of the cross.
3. Color the angel's hair and face (leave robe white).
4. Glue the angel inside the empty tomb on the green paper.
5. Cover the inside of the tomb and the angel with the gray circle.
6. Teacher attaches the gray circle with a paper fastener so it can be rolled away to reveal the angel in the empty tomb.

Craft Discussion:

- **Jesus has risen. That means He died and came back to life. Jesus is alive!**
- **Who can use their craft to tell the class the Easter story?** Children volunteer to retell the Easter story using their crafts.
- **Can you tell a family member or friend the story?** (Children respond.) **When you tell them the story, tell them Jesus is alive!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: "QUICKLY, GO AND TELL!"

Purpose: To help children understand and remember the Easter story, by acting it out. Children experience running to the tomb, and sharing the good news with others.

Supplies: None

Imagine you are standing next to the stone that was rolled away. Then, an angel in bright white tells you Jesus has risen. That means He died and came back to life. Jesus is alive! The angel tells you to "Go quickly and tell others!" Let's see how it might have felt to be there!

Directions:

1. At one end of the room, place two chairs with space in between them for the opening to the tomb.
2. Choose one child to be the angel who sits at the tomb entrance in one of the chairs.
3. Divide the remaining children into pairs. Have the pairs stand against the wall at the other end of the room.
4. The first pair of children runs to the angel.
5. The angel says the Easter chant:

**He has risen, as He said!
Come and see. Tell a friend!**

6. The pair pretends to peek through the tomb entrance and then runs back to the other children.
7. The pair says the Easter chant to the next pair of children and tags them.
8. Repeat steps 4-7 until every pair has had a turn.

GAME: WHAT'S NEXT?

Purpose: For children to understand the Easter story well enough to share it.

Supplies: Easter basket, symbols of a heart, cross, linen cloth strip, stone, angel, and sandals

Each symbol in this basket stands for one part of the Easter story. Let's discover the meaning of each symbol, and then put them in order so we can tell the story!

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle with the basket in the center.
2. Teacher holds the six symbols. One at a time, tell the children which part of the story each symbol represents:

This heart reminds us that Jesus loves us.

Because Jesus loves us, He died on the cross for us.

When Jesus died, His friends wrapped His body in linen cloth that smelled good.

The tomb was closed with a large stone. When Jesus came back to life, it rolled away.

The angel at the tomb told the women Jesus was alive!

The angel told them to "quickly go and tell others" (sandals) and they did.

3. After explaining each symbol, lay them in a random order in the center of the circle.
4. Challenge children to help you place them in the correct order of the story.
5. Individual children volunteer to use the symbols to tell the story in order.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: NEW LIFE

Purpose: Children will see dyed Easter eggs that represent new life and eat a snack of round sugar cookies to represent the stone that was rolled away.

Snack Suggestion: Dyed Easter eggs, round sugar cookies (shaped like the round stone)

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another 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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **The stone that was rolled away was a huge, heavy, round stone that covered the whole opening to the tomb. Each time you see a stone, you can think about the stone that was rolled away.**
 - **What is your favorite thing about Easter?** (Children respond.) **Blooming flowers, eggs, baby chicks, and baby rabbits are all signs of new life that come at springtime. Each time you see these signs, remember that Jesus is alive and He lives forever.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MATTHEW 28:1-7

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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jesus came to save the world;** (Use hands to make circle shape in front of you.)
- **He died for every boy and girl.** (Point to each other.)
- **He died on the cross for me and you,** (Stretch arms out to make a cross with your body.)
- **And then, they buried Him in a tomb.** (Close palms together, as if closing a door.)

- **They sealed the tomb with a heavy stone.** (Hold a very heavy imaginary stone in arms.)
- **His friends were sad - they felt alone.** (Wipe tears.)
- **Three days later, the stone rolled away,** (Open palms in look of surprise.)
- **And women there heard the angel say,** (Cup hand to ear.)

- **“He is not here. He has risen today.** (Raise palms slowly upward.)
- **Come see the place where Jesus lay.** (Point to eyes.)
- **Quickly go tell others that He’s not dead,** (Run in place.)
- **For Jesus has risen, just as He said!”** (Clap hands in celebration.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart.” Matthew 22:37a

GAME: MEMORY VERSE CIRCLE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

You are important to Jesus and He loves you very much. He wants you to love Him with all your heart (your feelings), **and with all your soul** (the part of you that will live forever), **and with all your mind** (your thoughts).

Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children and hold hands.
2. Walk in a circle as you say the verse together, taking one step with each word.
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart.”
3. Play again, but walk in the opposite direction.
4. Play several times, doing different motions each time. Motions may include: jumping in place, clapping, hopping, etc.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: I SEE SOMEONE JESUS LOVES

Purpose: To see Jesus loves everyone.

Supplies: Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)

You are important to Jesus; He loves each and every one of you. I'm going to use my binoculars (or spy glass) to see who Jesus loves. Let's see if you can guess who I see.

Directions:

1. Scan the room with the binoculars. In your mind, choose one of the children without revealing who you have chosen to the children.
2. Say, "**I spy with my little eye someone Jesus loves. It's a girl wearing a pink dress. Do you know who it is?** Allow the children guess until they guess correctly. You may choose to give a second hint, if needed.
3. **That's right! Jesus loves child's name.**
4. Play several times.



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 Jesus living forever.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 14: The Miracle of Easter

PONDER! Jesus died on the cross to save the world, but then came back to life three days later. It was a miracle. Jesus is alive! (Mathew 28:1-10). What is your favorite part of the Easter story?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for us. We're so glad You will live forever! Amen."

PLAY! Color a picture of a cross. Quickly go and tell someone all about what happened on the very first Easter. Give him or her the cross picture as a reminder that Jesus lives forever!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love
the Lord your God

with all your heart."
Matthew 22:37a

(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash
The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.