



# 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.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "Jesus lives forever."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
 and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

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 and 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."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "Jesus lives forever."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Am with You" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 14
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Matthew 28:1-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 28:6 Visual: Cross and stone
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> He Has Risen!	Standard-size sturdy green paper, sturdy white and gray paper, sturdy brown paper (or sandpaper), paper fastener, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> What's Next?	Easter basket, symbols of a heart, cross, linen cloth strip, stone, angel, and sandals
		<b>Game:</b> "Quickly, Go and Tell!"	Sheet
		<b>Snack:</b> New Life	Dyed Easter eggs, round sugar cookies
	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 14 Color This Story: "The Angel at the Empty Tomb"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Matthew 28:1-7	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Heart Hop	Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Lots of Love Tango	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about Jesus living forever

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus lives forever

## 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 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "Jesus lives forever."** 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: "Jesus lives forever."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

- "Jesus"** Middle finger of one hand touches middle of the palm of other hand. Repeat this action is with other hand. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross.
- "lives"** Use index finger and thumb to make an "L" hand shape with each hand. Then move "L" shapes up the body as if to show life in your body.
- "forever."** Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).

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:** "Jesus lives forever," Hebrews 7:24. 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.



Jesus as Lord

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



**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. Jesus is our Lord who lives forever. That is today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together.** Review the Whisper Verse together: "Jesus lives forever." Include sign language.

**In today's story, we will learn about the day God raised Jesus to live forever. "Easter" is the name of the day when believers from all over the world celebrate the miracle that after Jesus died on the cross for us, God raised Jesus back to life. This is the most important of Jesus' miracles to remember.** Sing: "I Will Remember."

**We want everyone to know about the miracle of Easter. Let's pray God will use the offering we give to help the whole world know Jesus lives forever. Then, everything that has breath will praise the Lord.** Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath" 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.



**Jesus died on the cross to save us, then God raised Him to life forever. Do you know where Jesus is now? (Children respond.) Jesus is living in heaven. His Spirit is in the hearts of all who believe in Him.** Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."



After Jesus died for us, God raised Him to life

## THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned the Lord Jesus rode into town on a donkey while the people praised Him. Today, we will discover what happened on the very first Easter morning. Let's open our Bible to today's story in Matthew 28:1-7. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 28:1-7.

### WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 28:1-7

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 and a stone. 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,
- 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 the angel say about Jesus when the stone rolled away?** ("He is not here. He has risen today.") **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Matthew 28:6 from the teacher's Bible.

**Will Jesus ever have to die again? (No.) Our Whisper Verse tells how we know that. Let's say it together now: "Jesus lives forever!"** Include sign language or hand motions.



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), paper fastener, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers

**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 the bottom of the green paper.

#### **Directions:**

1. Use brown, gray, or black crayon or marker 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:**

- **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, share our Whisper Verse, too! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "Jesus lives forever."

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **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 of Easter symbols in the center of the circle.
2. Child removes a symbol and displays it.
3. Teacher leads all children in guessing which part of the story each symbol represents:
  - Heart: Jesus loves us.
  - Cross: Jesus died for us.
  - Linen cloth strip: When Jesus died, His body was wrapped in cloth that smelled good.
  - Stone: The tomb was closed with a large stone. When Jesus came back to life, it rolled away.
  - Angel: The angel at the tomb told the women Jesus had risen, just as He said He would!
  - Sandals: The angel told them to "quickly go and tell others" and they did.
4. After explaining each symbol, lay them in random order in the center of the circle.
5. Challenge children to help you place them in the correct order of the story.
6. You may choose to have individual children use the symbols to tell the story in order.

## **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:** Sheet

**Imagine you are standing next to the stone that was rolled away. Then, an angel in bright white tells you 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 play area, drape a sheet over a table, leaving one end open for the tomb opening.
2. At the other end of the play area, children stand side by side in a line against the wall.
3. A child (as the angel) sits at tomb entrance, the open side of the sheet-covered table.
4. The first two children run 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 quickly back to the line.
7. The pair says the Easter chant to the next pair and tags them.
8. The next pair repeats steps 4-7.
9. Repeat steps 4-7 until all the children have peeked in the tomb.
10. The last to be tagged is the teacher who leads the angel and all the children in the chant above.

# 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 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.
  - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Jesus lives forever!") **Let's celebrate that by saying it together three times. Each time we will say it louder.** Repeat "Jesus lives forever!" three times. Include the sign language or hand motions.
  - **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 Jesus lives forever.**
  - **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, and remember that Jesus lives forever!**



## **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 \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (read every 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 "He Has Risen" craft. Use it to tell others what the angel said when the stone was rolled away. Tell them the good news that "Jesus lives forever."

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Think about ways you celebrate Easter all year long!**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "The Angel at the Empty Tomb." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God," as children color.





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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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 away.)
- **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 and with all your soul  
and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

### **GAME: HEART HOP**

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

**Supplies:** Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape

**Directions:**

1. Tape the paper heart shapes in a large circle on the floor.
2. Children stand on every other heart.
3. Say the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse. Have children repeat each word after you.
4. Say the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse again. This time, children turn to their right and hop from one heart to the next heart on each word.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: LOTS OF LOVE TANGO**

**Purpose:** To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"

**Do you love Jesus, the Lord?** (Children respond.) **Jesus wants you to love Him with every part of your body—from the top of your head to the tips of your toes! Look at everyone around you. They are your neighbors! Wave to your neighbors! God wants you to love everyone around you, too!**

### **Directions:**

1. Help children find partners. Partners stand together.
2. Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song and lead the following motions:
  - "You shall love the Lord your God,** (Point up to God in heaven.)  
**With all your heart and with all your soul** (Pat sides of body from head to toes.)  
**and with all your mind.**
  - Love your neighbor as yourself—** (Hug partner.)  
**the best commandments you'll find!"**
  - Praise Time chorus. (Hop, clap, or dance to the rhythm of the music.)



## **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!** Read Mathew 28:1-10 with your family. Ask each person to name his or her favorite part of the Easter story. The angel told the women to go quickly and tell the others that Jesus had risen just as He said. Who did they see on their way to tell the others?

**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 to remind them that Jesus lives forever!

**Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse:** Matthew 22:37

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."