



The Miracle of Easter

Lesson Aim: To see the reasons for the Easter miracles—forgiveness and eternal life.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: Jesus as Lord

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 27:50-51, 59-61; 28:1-9

What He has done: Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.

Key Verse: Matthew 28:6

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Exodus 26:31-34

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor
and glory and power for ever and ever."

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." Revelation 5:13b; 19:6b

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Banishing An Evil Spirit, Luke 4:31-37	Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out.	To know Jesus is the highest authority and power.
12	Raising Lazarus, John 11:3-4, 21-27, 32-36, 41-44	Jesus called Lazarus from out of the tomb.	To understand Jesus will one day resurrect all who believe in Him.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Luke 19:28-40	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	To understand that as Lord, Jesus will always be praised.
14	The Miracle of Easter, Matthew 27:50-51, 59-61; 28:1-9	Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.	To see the reasons for the Easter miracles—forgiveness and eternal life.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-12	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To realize Jesus is always present and active in our daily lives.
16	Ascending into Heaven, Luke 24:50-53	Jesus blessed His disciples and ascended into heaven.	To know Jesus is blessing us now from heaven.

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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Roll the Stone Away	Two stones, two wooden spoons or sticks, floor tape or rope
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: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "Neither Death nor Life" "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: John 3:16	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 14 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Matthew 27:50-51, 59-61; 28:1-9	Map—Jerusalem, Israel, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Easter Miracles Egg Treasure Treat, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Exodus 26:31-34	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Easter Miracles Egg, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Stone Rolls	Round cookie sandwiches with cream filling center, or any wheel-shaped cookie
	Up to 10	Game: Easter Egg Relay: He is Risen Indeed!	One plastic egg per team, one spoon per team member
	Up to 10	Craft: Easter Card	Standard-size white paper, coin or metal spoon, crayons, additional black crayons
	Up to 10	Discussion: Easter Miracles Egg	Plastic egg, small cross or pipe cleaner pieces, purple-red cloth ribbon, white cloth ribbon, frankincense, myrrh oil, pebble
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: "Sit on the Throne" Musical Chairs	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," CD player, chairs, large red cloth or sheet
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Bop	Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite Easter miracle?

GAME: ROLL THE STONE AWAY

Purpose: Children will play a relay game to think about how the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away when Jesus came back to life.

Supplies: Two stones (choose stones that are as easy as possible for children to roll), two wooden spoons or sticks, floor tape or rope

Prepare: Use floor tape or rope to mark start and finish lines.

Who can tell me why we celebrate Easter? (Jesus came back to life.) **Jesus died and was buried on a Friday. Some of His friends went early on Sunday morning to visit His tomb. Who knows what they found?** (The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.) **Jesus had come back to life! He is alive!**

The stone in front of Jesus' tomb was very heavy, but not too heavy for God to roll away. Let's race to see how quickly you can roll stones. These stones do not weigh as much as the stone in front of Jesus' tomb, but you may still have trouble rolling them!

Directions:

1. Form two teams of equal number. (If a team has one more player than the other team, choose a player on the other team to take two turns.)
2. Each team forms a line behind a starting line. Give a stone and spoon to the first player in each line.
3. On your signal, the first player in each line is to put the stone on the ground, roll it to the finish line, and roll it back to the next person in line. The first player sits down at the back of the line.
4. The next person in line will repeat step three. Continue until all players have had a turn.
5. The goal is to be the first team to have all players seated.



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 music as children move to the designated area.

The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.



Today, we worship Jesus as Lord. Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne."

We celebrate the miracles of Easter—forgiveness and eternal life given to all who believe in Jesus as Lord. The Easter miracles include God's Son dying on the cross for us, and God raising His Son from the dead. How do you think these miracles bring us closer to God and change our lives forever? (Children respond.)

You may choose to sing songs that focus on forgiveness and eternal life.



To understand the reason for the Easter miracles, let's read John 3:16 together. Read John 3:16.



Lead children in offering their sentence prayers thanking God for the Easter miracles.



As we give our offering today, let's ask God to use this money to spread the good news that Jesus is risen and we can be forgiven. Sing: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" as the offering is collected.



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 14.



Jesus died; God raised Him to life

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to Jerusalem. **Does anyone know why Jesus rode into Jerusalem?** (Children respond.) **It was to die on the cross for our sins and to be raised from the dead so we might have life forever close to God. Those are the two miracles we celebrate each Easter.**

Both have miracles within the miracle! Let's check out the first main Easter miracle—that God's Son died for us. As I read, listen closely to see how many eyewitnesses were present. An eyewitness is someone who sees something happen with his or her own eyes.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 27:50-51, 59-61; 28:1-9.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen carefully as we read what happened when God raised Jesus to life.
Read Matthew 27:50-51, 59-61.

The second Easter miracle is that God raised His Son, Jesus, from the dead. That is called the resurrection. As we did with the first miracle, listen closely to see how many eyewitnesses were present. An eyewitness is one who sees something happen. Read Matthew 28:1-9.



Understanding the Easter miracles

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Easter Miracles Egg Treasure Treat

What were the two main miracles of Easter that changed our lives forever? (Jesus gave His life for us, and God raised Jesus from the dead.) **Do you know why Jesus died on the cross for us?** (He died on purpose to pay for our sins so we could be forgiven.) **Jesus rose from the dead, conquering death forever, so that believers will have life forever close with God.**

Display one Treasure Treat: Easter Miracles Egg. **This egg contains symbols of miracles that happened at the cross and the empty tomb. A miracle is an amazing surprise from God.**

Show cross. **What miracles in nature did God perform at the cross to show Jesus was God's Son?** (Midday darkness, earth shook, rocks split.) **This cross reminds us of those miracles.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

What happened in the temple at the very moment Jesus died? (The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom.) **No human tore the curtain; God tore it. 1,400 years earlier, God told Moses how the curtain should be used. Let's read God's directions for Moses.**



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Exodus 26:31-34. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Exodus 26:31-34.

Show purple-red cloth. **This cloth stands for the temple curtain. This curtain was not for decoration; it separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the temple. God's presence was inside the Most Holy Place. Because of our sin, no one could go through the curtain into God's presence. Only the High Priest could enter once a year to ask forgiveness for the sins of the people.**

When Jesus died, our sins were forgiven. Anyone who believes in Jesus can now go directly into God's presence through prayer. The curtain tearing from top to bottom was a sign that Jesus' death opened a way for God in heaven (top of curtain) to be present forever with believers (bottom of curtain). It is a picture of the miracle of forgiveness!

Show white cloth scented with frankincense and myrrh. **This white cloth stands for burial cloth. To understand the Easter miracles we must remember that Jesus did truly die and was buried. A friend named Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in good-smelling, white burial cloth.**

Show pebble. **This pebble stands for the big stone that closed the entrance to Jesus' tomb. What miracles did God perform at the tomb three days after Jesus' body was placed there?** (Earthquake, angel rolled away the stone, Jesus had risen.) **This egg stands for a miracle, too. Close and display the egg. It is the miracle of the new life God gives to all who believe in His Son Jesus. It is life forever close with God!**

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an Easter Miracles Egg. It holds symbols of the cross, the torn temple curtain, the scented linen cloth, and the stone. The egg itself stands for the new life we have when we believe in Jesus. Use your egg to tell others about the Easter miracles. Symbol explanation can be found in Lesson 14 Daily Way and in the GOT TIME segment of this lesson. Items to place in the egg can be found in the GOT TIME segment of this lesson.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 14 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the angel sitting on the stone by the empty tomb saying, "He is risen!" The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: STONE ROLLS

Purpose: Children will eat a wheel shaped cookie while discussing the wheel shape of the stone that was rolled away from Jesus' tomb after He rose from the dead.

Snack Suggestion: Round cookie sandwiches with cream filling center or any round cookie that can be rolled on its side

Our cookies can roll like a wheel. In the same way, the stone that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb could roll like a wheel. In Bible times, a burial tomb was a cave or cave-like room. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance, so no one could enter. These stones were generally too big to be moved by just a few men, so levers were used to move them. Some archeologists have estimated that the stone that sealed Jesus' tomb weighed one to two tons (1,361 - 1,814 Kilograms). That is as heavy as a car!

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Who do you think rolled the stone away?"**

GAME: EASTER EGG RELAY: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Purpose: Celebrate the new life won at Easter with a relay race carrying a plastic egg on a spoon.

Supplies: One plastic egg per team, one spoon per team member

On the first Easter, Mary ran to tell Peter and John about the empty tomb. Then, Peter and John ran back to the tomb to see it for themselves. Years later Peter wrote, "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Directions:

1. Divide children into three or more relay teams with an equal number of children on each team.
2. Have each team form a large circle.
3. Give each child a spoon.
4. Give one child on each team the plastic egg to balance on their spoon.
5. On your signal, the child with the egg will run to the next child in the circle. Before transferring the egg onto the next child's spoon, the child says, **"He is risen!"**
6. The child receiving the egg responds, **"He is risen indeed!"** and receives the egg onto his or her spoon.
7. Once the egg has been transferred, the first child sits down.
8. Repeat the race around the circle. The goal is to be the first team sitting down.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: EASTER CARD

Purpose: Children create a card to share the meaning of Easter with a friend or family member.

Supplies: Standard-size white paper, coin or metal spoon, crayons, additional black crayons

Prepare: Print the following message on the lower half of the paper (vertical):

HAPPY EASTER!

“God so loved the world
that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

Today, we are each going to create a Happy Easter card for a friend or family member. We will begin with the cross that stands for the forgiveness Jesus gives us. You will color the cross with bright colors in any design to represent life forever with God. The dark crayon will represent the darkness of a life without God.

Directions:

1. Fold card in half so that the preprinted message is on the inside of the card.
2. On the front cover of the card, draw a large cross.
3. Color the cross with bright crayons. Be sure to press down firmly and color the entire cross.
4. Use black crayon to color over cross and entire front cover until it is colored completely black.
5. Use coin, or edge of spoon to etch over the cross until the bright color appears from beneath the black coloring.
6. Continue to etch until the colorful cross is showing.
7. Sign your name on the inside of the card.

Just as this cross came through the dark color, Jesus came through our darkness of being separated from God. When He gave us life on the cross, this brought us forgiveness. When He rose to life, He proved He has the power to give us life forever with God. That's the Easter story. Give this card to someone today and share the Easter story.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: EASTER MIRACLES EGG

Purpose: Enable children to explain the Easter symbols of today's Treasure Treat to family and friends.

Supplies:

Egg: Hollow, plastic, colored egg

Cross: Small wooden cross or two pipe cleaner pieces twisted into cross shape

Temple curtain (veil): 1-inch piece of purple-red cloth ribbon

Burial cloth (linen): 1-inch piece of white cloth ribbon scented with frankincense and myrrh oil

Stone: Pebble

Today, we are going to fill an egg with four symbols that can help us remember the details of the Easter miracles. Discuss the symbols within the Easter Miracles Egg.

Directions:

1. **CROSS** (Colossians 2:13.) Jesus died on the cross, so our sins could be forgiven and erased forever!
2. **PIECE OF TEMPLE CURTAIN** (Matthew 27:50-51.) The purple-red temple curtain showed we were separated from God. When Jesus died, the temple curtain tore from top to bottom.
3. **PIECE OF SCENTED WHITE LINEN CLOTH** (John 19:40-42.) Jesus' body was wrapped in a burial cloth sprinkled with spices. Smell the frankincense and myrrh on your cloth.
4. **STONE** (Matthew 28:1-7.) The angel rolled the big stone away and said: "He has risen, just as He said He would."
5. **EGG** (John 3:16.) The egg stands for new life. Anyone who believes in Jesus has a new life forever with Him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor
and glory and power for ever and ever."

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." Revelation 5:13b; 19:6b

GAME: "SIT ON THE THRONE" MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: Children will give examples of how we can give praise, honor, and glory to Jesus or an example of His power.

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," CD player, chairs, large red cloth or sheet

Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the book of Revelation. It tells us that the Lord God Almighty, who is seated on the throne in heaven, is the one who deserves all the praise, honor, glory, and power. Let's play a version of musical chairs in which we share examples of Jesus' power or ways we can give praise, honor, and glory to Him.

Directions:

1. Place chairs (one per child) back-to-back in a line.
2. Drape the red cloth over one chair to represent Jesus' throne.
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse as the children walk in a line around the chairs.
4. Stop the music periodically.
5. When the music stops, each child sits in the nearest chair as quickly as possible.
6. The child sitting on the throne gives an example of a way to praise, honor, and glorify Jesus (sing, pray, tell others about Him, serve others, love others, etc.) or an example of His power (creating the earth, making the sun, calming the sea, miracles of healing, etc.).
7. Have all children stand and shout, **"Hallelujah, for the Lord God Almighty reigns!"**
8. Place the red cloth on a different chair and play again.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BOP

Purpose: Children will memorize the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Display Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Toss the balloon into the air reciting the first three words of the Bible Memory Verse.
4. Each child who "bops" the balloon must say the next three words of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Each round is complete when the Bible Memory Verse is completed.

Teacher Tip: Children may help each other remember the words so the balloon never falls.

Competitive Version: Form two teams in two separate circles. The first team to complete the Bible Memory Verse without the balloon touching the ground is the winning team.

Timed Version: Time each round. Challenge children to achieve a faster time each round.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Raising Lazarus (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did Jesus tell the people to do when He went to Lazarus' tomb? (Roll away the stone.) What happened when Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out"? (Lazarus walked out of the tomb alive.)

Riding into Jerusalem (Circa 33 A.D.) How did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? (On a donkey's colt.) What did the crowd do as Jesus rode into town? (They lay their cloaks in the road and praised Him with palm branches.) What did Jesus say would happen if His disciples stopped praising Him? (The stones would cry out.)

The Miracle of Easter (Circa 33 A.D.) The Easter story is filled with miracles. The two greatest miracles are Jesus paid for our sins, and God raised Him from the dead. What is your favorite part of the Easter story? (Children respond.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven