



# 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.

## 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 know we can help others know Jesus.
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 Jail, Acts 16:25-26	God freed Paul and Silas from jail.	To learn to praise God everywhere and 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."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**It's Easter!** Children may arrive filled with excitement and filled with stories of Easter baskets, the Easter Bunny, and candy. It may take some time to settle them down. Be prepared to adjust plans to meet the children's needs. We also ask that you redirect any discussions of the Easter bunny and Easter baskets and focus on Jesus and His resurrection.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Jesus Lives!	Coloring pages of the empty tomb or of Jesus talking with His friends, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> The Stone Was Rolled Away	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Game Center:</b> Easter Story Matching Game	Two sets of laminated postcard-sized pictures of a heart, a cross, the number "3" printed on a picture of a sun, sandals, and a stone
		<b>Music Center:</b> Jesus Is Risen!	Praise music
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "He Is Mighty to Save" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "Everyone Who Calls" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "We Love"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 15
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> John 20:1-18	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:1 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, cup, stone large enough to cover the opening in the cup
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> 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
		<b>Game:</b> The Tomb Is Empty	Bed sheets or blankets, chairs or tables
		<b>Game:</b> Easter Symbols	One set of the laminated pictures from the Game Center: Easter Story Matching Game
		<b>Snack:</b> "Rolled Away" Cookies	Round sugar cookies
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 15
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> John 20:1-18	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Bible Memory Verse Cheer	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> God Is with You	Beanbag, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about Jesus' resurrection

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



The God who saves us

# 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 help you remember that Jesus is alive.**

**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: JESUS LIVES!

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of the empty tomb or of Jesus talking with His friends, crayons

### **DO**

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**What are we celebrating today? (Easter.) Easter is the day we celebrate when Jesus rose to life. When Jesus' friends saw Jesus with their own eyes, they were very happy. We may not see Jesus right now with our own eyes but we can be happy because the Bible tells us that Jesus is always with us. Can you draw a smiley face on your picture to remind you to celebrate Easter?**

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while discussing the story. Encourage children to make a stone with the play-dough.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**The Bible tells us that after Jesus died on the cross, His friends placed His body in a tomb. A tomb was like a small cave. They covered the opening with a stone that was very heavy and hard to roll away. Jesus' friends were sad, but three days later, they found the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty! Jesus was alive! Can you roll the play-dough into a ball and make a stone with it? Children make stones with the play-dough. How big do you think the stone was that they rolled over the entrance to the tomb? (Children respond.)**

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## **GAME CENTER: EASTER STORY MATCHING GAME**

### **SUPPLIES**

Two sets of laminated postcard-sized pictures of a heart, a cross, the number "3" printed on a picture of a sun, sandals, and a stone

### **DO**

Lay the pictures out face down in random order on the floor or the table. Work together with the children to turn two pictures over at a time to find matches. When a match is found, use the discussion points below to talk about the picture and how it relates to the Easter story.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Cross:** Jesus died on the cross to save us.

**Number three:** Three days after Jesus died on the cross, God brought Him back to life.

**Stone:** What does the stone have to do with Easter? (Children respond.) The stone was rolled away from the tomb. Jesus was not there! He had risen. He is alive!

**Sandals:** Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends that the tomb was empty.

**Heart:** Jesus loved us so much He came to earth, died for us, and then rose again. Jesus is alive!

## **MUSIC CENTER: JESUS IS RISEN!**

### **SUPPLIES**

Praise music

### **DO**

Play praise music as children move and dance around the room. Periodically stop the music and have the children freeze in place and shout, "Jesus is risen!"

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Let's sing and dance as we remember Easter is the day Jesus rose to life. When the music stops, I want you to freeze in place and shout, "Jesus is risen!"** After a time, change what the children say to "Jesus saves us!" or "Jesus loves you!"

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## **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](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"The Lord your God</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is with you,</b>	(you) Index finger points straight ahead.
<b>He is mighty</b>	(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
<b>to save."</b>	(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
<b>Zephaniah 3:17a</b>	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.



The God who saves us

# 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.



**Today, we celebrate Easter. It is the day we remember Jesus gave His life to save us, rose again, and now He lives forever. Let's pray.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, help us to remember why we celebrate Easter. Because You rose to life, we can be with You forever. Amen.**



**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."

**We can honor God by singing about His greatness as we give our money offering.** Sing: "Be Still and Know" while collecting the offering.



**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.



**Jesus is so mighty He is alive forever. He is mighty to save. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Practice two or three times.

**"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.

**is with you,  
He is mighty  
to save."**

(you) Index finger points straight ahead.

(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.

**Zephaniah 3:17a**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



**Jesus is mighty to save all who believe in Him. That's good news!** Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "He Is Mighty to Save."



Jesus' friends knew He was alive

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:1, picture of the Bible story, cup, stone large enough to cover the opening in the cup

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	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 stone. **What could we use this stone for?** (Children respond.) **Let's see if it's big enough to cover the opening in this cup.** Hold the stone over the opening in the cup. **This reminds me of a very special Bible story; it is why we celebrate Easter. The Bible tells us that after Jesus died, His friends placed His body in a tomb. The stone they rolled over the opening was much bigger than the one I have here. It was so big it would have taken several people to roll it into place. But, not even a huge stone could keep Jesus from coming back to life. Let's listen.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 20:1.



### **WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 20:1-18**

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.
- 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.) **Jesus was not in the tomb. Is Jesus alive?** (Yes.) **Let's say it together: "Jesus is alive!"**



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\*, glue or tape, stapler, staples, crayons or markers, optional: label, 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 inside of the tomb (or on a label), 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.

**Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. When considering craft decorations for younger children, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, felt, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

#### **Directions:**

1. Decorate Jesus' tomb with the craft supplies and crayons or markers.
2. Optional: Attach the label to the inside of the tomb.
3. 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!)

# 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. Together, the other children say, "**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:** One set of the laminated pictures from the Game Center: Easter Story Matching Game (Heart, cross, the number "3" printed on a picture of a sun, sandals, and a stone)

**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! Can you find the five symbols?**

### **Directions:**

1. Children find the five pictures.
2. Children sit in a circle.
3. Show the children each of the five pictures, explaining the meaning of each.
  - 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.**
  - Stone: **The stone was rolled away from the tomb. Jesus was not there! He had risen. He is alive!**
  - Heart: **Jesus did all this because He loves you.**
4. Children pass the heart shape around the circle. As each child holds the heart, everyone says: "**Jesus loves child holding heart.**"



# 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 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.
  - **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.)**
  - **Jesus wasn't in the tomb because He had risen from the dead. He is alive!**



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.

<b>"The Lord your God</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is with you,</b>	(you) Index finger points straight ahead.
<b>He is mighty</b>	(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
<b>to save."</b>	(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
<b>Zephaniah 3:17a</b>	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: 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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **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 a closing an entrance.)
- **His friends were sad—they felt alone.** (Make a sad face.)
- **But Mary came back on the third day.** (Raise three fingers.)
- **She saw that 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!"** (Palms facing up, hands are moved upward.)



### **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: GOD IS WITH YOU

**Supplies:** Beanbag, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save"

Our Bible Memory Verse reminds us that God is always with us. Let's play a game to practice our verse. When I toss the beanbag to you, I want you to catch it and say, "He is mighty to save."

### Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children.
2. Face one of the children in the circle. Say to him or her: "The Lord your God is with child's name."
3. Toss the beanbag to the child.
4. Child replies, "He is mighty to save."
5. Child tosses the beanbag back to you.
6. Repeat until each child has a turn.
7. At the end of the game, sing the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song.



## 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' resurrection.

### PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 15: The Resurrection: Jesus Lives

**PONDER!** Jesus gave His life to save us and rose to life again (John 20:1-18). Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb? (Jesus is alive!)

**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?

#### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord your God  
is with you,  
He is mighty  
to save."

**Zephaniah 3:17a**

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.  
(you) Index finger points straight ahead.  
(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.  
(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.  
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.