



Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8



► Bible Point

Jesus is alive.



Key Verse

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate that Jesus is alive.

Some 5- and 6-year-olds may have experienced the death of a grandparent, relative, or pet. However, most children this age have an unrealistic view of death, influenced in part by what they see on television or in movies. The children’s limited understanding of death can hamper their understanding of how miraculous it was for Jesus to come back to life. Use this lesson to emphasize that Jesus truly died and was buried—then celebrate with children that Jesus is alive today.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	He’s Alive! Look for signs of life in their partners.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Guess what a cocoon might have to do with Jesus being alive.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, “Butterfly/Cocoon” poster 	Roll up the poster, and tape it so it looks like a cocoon. Put it inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Experience the Bible using several senses.	Bible, My Bible Playground, potpourri (or scented soap), tape, rolled-up “Butterfly/Cocoon” poster from Theo’s News 	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Roll and tape each page with the butterfly on the inside. Be prepared to lead kids to an empty room, closet, or hallway with a partially open door.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: It's Not What You Think!</p> <p>Build a butterfly.</p>	masking tape, colorful blocks	Use masking tape to make two butterfly shapes on the floor.
	<p>Center 2: Butterfly Snacks</p> <p>Make a yummy snack that connects to the Bible passage.</p>	1 tortilla per child, strawberry cream cheese, chocolate chips, paper plates, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Resurrection Verse</p> <p>Review the Bible passage by singing a song.</p>	CD player, markers, My Bible Playground Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Center 4: Blooming Flowers</p> <p>Make a flower using ink pads.</p>	brown construction paper, washable ink pads, markers, wet wipes	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>Alive Prayer</p> <p>Become still and then lively as they pray.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

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Mark 16:1-8

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Four Views

The first question skeptics ask about Jesus' resurrection is, Why do the Gospel writers all give different accounts? To answer that question, think about an exciting event in your life at which several people were present. If you asked them to tell about the events of that day, would all their versions of the day be exactly the same? Of course not. We all see things from different perspectives and remember different details of what we see.

That's exactly what happened with the Gospel writers' telling of Jesus' resurrection. All seeming contradictions arise out of their slightly different views of events and can easily be resolved when one accepts that truth. In fact, if all the accounts were exactly the same, a critic would say that the authors had collaborated to make up a convincing story. And thanks to these different viewpoints, the accounts we have—as orchestrated by God—give us a more nearly complete picture of what happened than if only one Gospel had been written.

Especially Good News

The angel's proclamation "He has risen!" was the most wonderful news anyone could have given to Jesus' followers. He was alive, and they were to meet him! Why did the angel mention Peter specifically? Peter—the bold one—had fearfully denied Jesus three times the night of Jesus' trial and then had broken down and wept (Mark 14:66-72). Now that Jesus was alive, Peter would likely wonder if Jesus would accept him. The angel left no doubt of Jesus' forgiveness by telling the women at the tomb, "Go tell his disciples and Peter."

Death Defeated

Why do we celebrate Easter? The Apostle Paul eloquently tells us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:17, 56-57). What more could we ask? "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

The Jesus Connection

We don't serve a dead leader the way most other religions do. Jesus is alive! Because he lives, we can each have a dynamic and growing relationship with him.

How can you thank God for the indescribable gift of Jesus and the world-rocking, sin-shattering, life-revolutionizing power of his resurrection? Make this Easter Sunday special. Turn from distractions, and focus instead on the real gift of Easter: new life through Jesus' death and resurrection. Start now by talking to God about what Easter means to you. You can write your prayer here.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"
(track 12), "God's Not
Dead" (track 5)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage children to join you in doing the motions and singing.



Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me.

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that God's Son, ► JESUS, IS ALIVE. Let's celebrate by singing "God's Not Dead."**

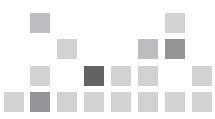
Play "God's Not Dead" (track 5 on the CD) and encourage kids to sing with joy and energy!



(Chorus)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)



God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

I see him in my hands. (*wiggle your hands*)

I see him in my feet. (*wiggle your feet*)

I see him in the air. (*place one hand above your eyes*)

I see him everywhere. (*place both hands above your eyes*)

I see him at the church. (*hold both hands like a roof over your head*)

I see him on the street. (*point to the ground*)

And I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. (*shake a pointer finger*)

(Repeat chorus.)

Say: **When we sing that song, it reminds us that God's not dead, and ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's explore this some more.**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

He's Alive!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 11:25, says, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25). This means that people who believe in Jesus will live forever. Let's say it together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

Ask kids to face a partner and join hands. Then ask them to take a minute to see how many "signs of life" they can see, hear, or feel.

Play "Heartbeat" (track 16 on the CD) as partners do this. When the track is over, have partners let go of hands.

He's Alive! Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Heartbeat" (track 16)





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What signs of life did you notice about your partner?

Say: **You know someone is alive if that person is moving, breathing, and his or her heart is beating! When Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins, he stopped moving. He stopped breathing. And his heart stopped beating. Jesus died, and they buried him in the tomb.**

Then Jesus came back to life, as we'll hear about in the Bible today. Our sins are forgiven! We can live in heaven when we believe in Jesus! Tell that amazing news to your partner, and give each other a high five! Because ► JESUS IS ALIVE, everyone who loves him will live forever!

Allow time for kids to share the good news and give high fives.

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3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the cocoon around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a cocoon in the Surprise Box?

Theo: To surprise you, of course.

Teacher: Friends, what do you know about a cocoon?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo: A cocoon reminds me of a sleeping bag!

Teacher: It does look like a sleeping bag.

Theo: But there's a lot more going on inside a cocoon than just sleeping.

Teacher: That's right! There's a surprise in the cocoon.

Theo's News Supplies

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Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

tape

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

"Butterfly/Cocoon" poster

Theo's News Easy Prep

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Roll up the poster, and tape it so it looks like a cocoon. Put it inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.



Theo: It's a butterfly!

Teacher: That's right! We'll hear from the Bible today how some women got a surprise at Jesus' tomb. Jesus wasn't dead; ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Let's listen to the Bible to learn more.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Sensing Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Mark 16, and show the children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Jesus had died on a cross. He did this to take away all of the bad things that we do.** Lay the rolled-up cocoon poster in front of you. Place a rolled-up student page in front of each child. **The people wrapped Jesus' body in cloth and put it in a tomb kind of like a cave. Let's pretend the cocoon in front of you is Jesus' body.**

Ask:

- **What happens to a person's body when he or she dies?**

Say: **We're sad when someone dies, because we miss that person. All of Jesus' friends were very sad that he died. They missed him so much.**

Three of Jesus' friends—Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Salome—decided to bring some good-smelling spices to where Jesus was buried because they loved Jesus. Open the bag of potpourri (or bar of soap). Have children pass the bag or soap around and take turns smelling it.

The women walked from their houses to the cave where Jesus lay. Let's pretend to walk to the cave. Show me how sad the women may've looked as they walked. Lead children in looking sad and walking toward the door to the empty room. Stop the procession just before you get there.

When the women were almost there, they knew they had a problem. A giant stone would be in front of the cave so no one could get in. The women decided they'd need to find someone to help them move the stone when they got there. Lead kids the rest of the way to the closet or door.

When they got to the cave, they saw that someone had already moved the stone. Motion to the door that's partly open.

The women must've been surprised that the stone had already been rolled away.



Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Playground potpourri (or scented soap)
- rolled-up "Butterfly/Cocoon" poster from Theo's News

Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Easy Prep

- Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Roll and tape each page with the butterfly on the inside. Be prepared to lead kids to an empty room, closet, or hallway with a partially open door.





When they went into the cave, they had another surprise! It was empty! Jesus was gone! Have kids take a peek into the empty room, and say: **Nope! Nothing here!**

The women were upset. They thought Jesus was dead. They thought someone took his body away. Then they saw an angel. The angel told them that Jesus had risen. The angel told them to tell their friends that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!

Return with the children to where you began. Remind kids of their cocoons, and have them tell the children sitting on either side of them that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. Then have kids unroll their cocoons. Unroll the teaching poster as well.

Say: **Your cocoons aren't dead! Bright, wonderful, alive butterflies come out of cocoons. And Jesus isn't dead and buried in the tomb anymore. ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you about what we heard from the Bible today?
- What do you think is the most amazing thing about what we heard?

Say: **Jesus was dead and buried, but he's not dead anymore— ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

It's Not What You Think!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point to the butterfly outlines on the floor, and say: **Look at these butterflies. Right now they don't have much life in them, do they? Let's add some color!**

Give kids a chance to fill in the parts of the butterflies using the colorful blocks.

Center 1: It's Not What You Think! Supplies

masking tape
colorful blocks

Center 1: It's Not What You Think! Easy Prep

Use masking tape to outline two butterfly shapes on the floor.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is Jesus like a butterfly?
- How can we celebrate Jesus coming back to life for us?

Say: **Whenever we see a beautiful butterfly, it can remind us that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's tell everyone this awesome, good news!**

CENTER 2:

Butterfly Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.

Say: **When the women arrived at the cave, they were surprised to see that the stone had been moved. Let's make a snack that helps us remember that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Have kids each roll up their tortillas to look like cocoons. Then have kids unroll their tortillas and spread cream cheese on their tortillas.

Say: **Butterflies can remind us that Jesus came back to life.** Show kids how to make an outline of a butterfly with chocolate chips.

Say: **What beautiful butterflies! ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Ask a child to say a prayer of thanks that Jesus is alive. Then let kids eat the snacks as they celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about butterflies?
- What do you like about Jesus being alive?

Say: **Butterflies are beautiful when they come out of their cocoons. And it's beautiful that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**



Center 2: Butterfly Snacks Supplies

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1 tortilla per child
strawberry cream
cheese
chocolate chips
paper plates
plastic knives
antibacterial gel
(optional)

 **ALLERGY ALERT**



**Center 3: Resurrection
Verse
Supplies**

CD player
markers

My Bible Playground

Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus Came"
(verses 1 & 2) (track
17)

CENTER 3:

Resurrection Verse

What You'll Do

Have kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Then have kids use markers to decorate their butterflies. Show kids how to fold down the middle of the page, hold it on the fold, and move it up and down so it looks like the wings are flapping.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Came" (verses 1 & 2) (track 17 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Encourage kids to flap the butterfly wings to the beat as they sing and fly their butterflies in a circle around the room.

**Jesus came into the town,
A-riding on a donkey.
Clap and sing and shout and praise
To Jesus who sure loves us!**

(Chorus)

**Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!**

**Jesus died but came to life
On that Easter morning.
He's alive forevermore.
That's why we all are singing!**

(Repeat chorus; then repeat from the beginning.)

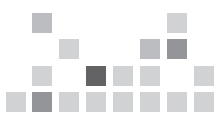
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you do at Easter to celebrate that Jesus is alive?**
- **What can you do this week to tell people that Jesus is alive?**

Say: **Jesus came back to life— ► JESUS IS ALIVE!** That's the exciting reason we celebrate Easter. Jesus died on the cross to forgive all the wrong things we do. He came back to life so we can live forever with him.



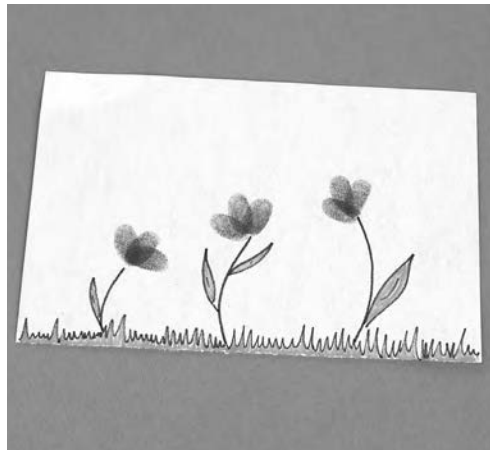
CENTER 4:

Blooming Flowers

What You'll Do

Give each child a piece of brown construction paper.

Say: **In the spring, the whole earth is waking up. But before that happens, in a lot of places it looks like everything is dead. The ground is brown just like this paper.**



But what looks dead really has life in it! Let's create some flowers from this dead ground!

Have kids use markers to draw stems on their papers. Then have them each press a finger onto an ink pad and create a flower at the top of the stem with their thumbprints. Have kids use wet wipes to clean their fingers.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's similar between the flower popping out of the ground and Jesus coming back to life?**
- **What are ways we can know that Jesus is alive?**

Say: **In the fall people bury—or plant—plain, brown flower bulbs in the ground. In the spring beautiful new flowers appear in each bulb's place. The people in the Bible were sad because they thought Jesus was dead. But Jesus did not stay buried in the tomb— ► JESUS IS ALIVE! And Jesus gives beautiful new life to us, too!**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.



Center 4: Blooming Flowers Supplies

- brown construction paper
- washable ink pads
- markers
- wet wipes

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to celebrate that Jesus is alive!**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Each morning when you wake up, ask Jesus to help you live for him that day.**
2. **Have a family member read Mark 16:1-8 with you. Tell your family members that Jesus is alive.**
3. **Ask a parent's permission to pick some flowers from outside, and put them in a vase to remind you that Jesus is alive.**

Say: **If you want to ask Jesus to help you live for him, circle choice number 1. If you want to read Mark 16:1-8, circle choice number 2. If you want to pick some flowers, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Alive Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids stand in a circle, and ask them to be really still and not move a muscle and try not to breathe. Then say the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for our sins. Thank you for coming back to life, so we can live with you forever!** Have kids start jumping up and down and clapping. Then have kids join hands and give them a few seconds to silently thank Jesus that he's alive for us.

Close by praying: **In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.