



# Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

Five- and six-year-olds have the simple faith to believe that Jesus is alive. However, they won't understand the permanence of death unless they've experienced the loss of a pet or loved one. Tell your children that Jesus died and his resurrection was a real miracle. This knowledge will help kids understand more of God's incredible power as they celebrate Easter. Remind kids that Jesus is God's Son and that Jesus is real and alive today.



► **Bible Point**  
Jesus is alive.

**Key Verse**  
"Christ died for us"  
(Romans 5:8).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will tell others that Jesus is alive.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Jesus Is Alive!</b> Move a paper stone as they tell others the Key Verse.	Bible, My Bible Playground, 1 craft stick per child, scissors, brown paper, tape, pencils	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Carefully cut a slit in each page where indicated.
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a plastic Easter egg has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, plastic Easter egg <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place the egg in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Listen to Mary tell the story of Jesus' resurrection.	Bible, CD player, 1 colorful streamer per child, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Mary Sees Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	



*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: An Empty Cave</b> Play inside a “cave” and re-enact the Bible story.</p>	2 bedsheets, safety pins, several Bible-times costumes	Cover a large table with two bedsheets so that the sheets overlap in the middle of the table. Pin up the corners of the sheets with safety pins to create an opening to the “cave.”
	<p><b>Center 2: Surprise Snacks</b> Review the Bible story while they make and eat their snacks.</p>	1 piece of canned biscuit dough and 1 large marshmallow per child, cinnamon, sugar, shakers, water, pastry brush, baking pans	
	<p><b>Center 3: Roll the Stone Away</b> Sing a song and make paintings as they pretend to roll the stone away from the tomb.</p>	CD player, smocks, box lids, 3 squeeze bottles of tempera paint, paper, pencils <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, marbles	
	<p><b>Center 4: Empty Tombs</b> Make toys to use in retelling the Bible story.</p>	1 foam cup, 1 ten-inch length of string, and 1 sheet of brown construction paper per child; tape; markers	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p><b>“Thank You, Jesus” Prayer</b> Sing a prayer of thanksgiving.</p>	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*







### Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to God's House" (track 7)

### Jesus Is Alive! Supplies

Bible

My Bible Playground

1 craft stick per child

scissors

brown paper

tape

pencils

### Jesus Is Alive! Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Carefully cut a slit in each page where indicated.

## 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

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "Welcome to God's House" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and lead children in doing the motions.

**With arms open wide, Jesus greets you.** (*Spread arms out.*)  
**He's so glad to see you today.** (*Shake a neighbor's hand.*)  
**Say "hi" to a friend right beside you.** (*Continue shaking hands.*)  
**Let's learn and let's sing and let's pray.** (*Turn around once.*)

**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)

**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)

**Welcome to God's house today.**

**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)

**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)

**Welcome to God's house today!**

(*Repeat.*)

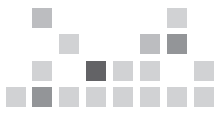
## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Jesus Is Alive!

#### What You'll Do

Gather children together. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is Romans 5:8. This verse says, "Christ died for us." Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse: **"Christ died for us."**



But dying for us isn't all Jesus did. He came back to life for us, too! Jesus died on the cross and came to life again so that if we believe in him, we can live with him forever in heaven. How exciting!

Excited is probably exactly how Mary felt that morning when she got to the tomb where they had placed Jesus' body. She probably was wondering how she could move the big stone they had put to block the doorway to the tomb. But she didn't have to worry about that, because the stone was moved and Jesus was alive! Let's make something to help us tell this important Bible story to others.

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and remind kids to write their names on their papers. Give each child a craft stick and a piece of brown or black paper. Have kids crumple their papers into wads.

Show kids how to insert a craft stick through the slit from behind the page. Then help each child tape a paper wad to the top of the craft stick in front of the page. Demonstrate how they can move the paper "stone" in front of and away from the entrance to the tomb.

Have kids form pairs, and let partners practice telling the Easter story to each other. Encourage kids to use their pages at home to tell families and friends how Christ died and came back to life again for us!

Say: **It's great to know that Christ died for us, but we can be even happier that**  
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

**3** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Theo's News

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

**Theo:** I'm excited about what I found! I hope you like it. I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box. Have kids pass the plastic Easter egg around the circle so everyone can open it and see that there's nothing inside. Give children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** Why do you think Theo brought us an empty container?  
*(Pause while children respond.)*



### Theo's News Supplies

- CD player
- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- Theo puppet
- plastic Easter egg
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the egg in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





### Bible Time Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
1 colorful streamer  
per child  
tape  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "The Empty Cave"  
(track 10)  
"Mary Sees Jesus"  
poster (from the Big  
Bible Poster Pack)

**Teacher:** Those are good guesses. Theo, can you tell us why you hid an empty container in our Surprise Box today?

**Theo:** Our Bible story today is about something important that was found empty, kind of like this container but a lot bigger.

**Teacher:** Let's listen to our Bible story and find out what happened.

**Theo:** Have a great day, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

## Bible Time

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 20:1-18, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that Jesus did not remain dead— ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

**Jesus' friend, Mary, is going to tell us about an empty cave. During the story we'll hear a song called "Oh Where, Oh Where Is Jesus?" When you hear that song, you get to stand up, scamper around the room, and quickly pretend to search for Jesus before the song ends and you have to sit back down. We should also listen for the words ► "JESUS IS ALIVE." When you hear those words, I want you to stand up and cheer as loud as you can for Jesus. Let's close our eyes for a moment and pretend we're going back in time. When you hear Mary begin to speak, you can open your eyes.**

Begin "The Empty Cave" (track 10 on the CD). Lead the kids in doing the actions at the right times. When the track ends, show kids the poster.

Say: **Let's make this poster look more like a celebration by adding party streamers to it!** Let each child choose a colorful streamer and tape one end of it to the bottom or sides of the poster. Then hang the poster on the wall so all can see this festive display.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did Mary see when she looked in the tomb?**
- **How do you think Mary felt when she found the cave empty?**
- **How did you feel when you couldn't find Jesus in our classroom?**
- **How did Mary change after she saw that Jesus was alive?**
- **If you had been Mary, how would you have told someone that Jesus was alive?**

Say: **Mary saw that the cave was empty. She wondered where Jesus was. Then, after Jesus spoke to her, Mary knew that ► 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:

## An Empty Cave

### What You'll Do

Direct the children to the table, and encourage kids to play in the empty cave and re-enact the Bible story. Let them choose who will pretend to be Jesus, Mary, the angels, Peter, John, and the disciples.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Mary find when she came to the cave?
- What would you say to Jesus if you heard his voice?
- How can you tell someone that Jesus is alive?

Say: **We can use words to tell others about Jesus, or we can show others with our actions. Use your actions this week to tell someone that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

### CENTER 2:

## Surprise Snacks

### What You'll Do

Have children wash their hands (or use wet wipes), and then let children sit down to prepare their snacks. Give each child a large marshmallow and a piece of uncooked canned biscuit dough.

Have kids retell the Bible story using the marshmallow to represent Jesus. Have a few shakers filled with cinnamon and sugar for kids to sprinkle on their biscuit dough. Show kids how to stretch their dough to form the cave, place a large marshmallow in the center, and seal their dough with the marshmallow inside by brushing a small amount of water on



### Center 1: An Empty Cave Supplies

2 bedsheets  
safety pins  
several Bible-times costumes

### Center 1: An Empty Cave Easy Prep

Cover a large table with two bedsheets so that the sheets overlap in the middle of the table. Pin up the corners of the sheets with safety pins to create an opening to the "cave."

### Center 2: Surprise Snacks Supplies

1 piece of canned biscuit dough and 1 large marshmallow per child  
cinnamon  
sugar  
shakers  
water  
pastry brush  
baking pans

**ALLERGY ALERT**





### Center 3: Roll the Stone Away Supplies

CD player  
smocks  
box lids  
3 squeeze bottles of tempera paint  
paper  
pencils  
**Teacher Pack:**  
CD: "Roll the Stone Away" (track 11)  
marbles

the edges. Have kids set their biscuit "caves" on a baking pan for baking, and then follow the instructions on the can of biscuit dough.

When the snacks are finished baking, have kids continue reviewing the Bible story, opening their biscuit caves to reveal the empty space inside. Jesus is no longer there—  
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think when you opened the biscuit and didn't see the marshmallow inside?**
- **How was that like what Mary felt when she looked inside the cave and Jesus wasn't there?**

Say: **We can be just as excited as Mary was that ▶ JESUS IS ALIVE. We can praise God that Jesus is alive.**

## ■ CENTER 3:

# Roll the Stone Away

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Let kids roll a stone and create a picture that will remind them that ▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE.** Set out painting smocks, sheets of white paper, pencils, three colors of paint (in squeeze bottles), and the marbles (from the Teacher Pack). Also set out box lids with sides about two inches high (one box lid for each child at the center).

Have kids wear smocks to protect their clothes. Let children take the box lids and turn them up to make shallow containers. Instruct kids each to write their name on a paper, turn the paper over, and place the paper inside the box lid. Let kids each drop dots of paint on their paper, place a marble on the paper, and then tip the lid from side to side so that the marble makes paint tracks on the paper. Set the paintings aside to dry. Remind the children that when Mary returned to the cave, she saw that the stone had been rolled away.

As kids are rolling their stones to create their paintings, have the children sing "Roll the Stone Away" (track 11 on the CD) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

🎵 **Roll, roll, roll the stone.  
Roll the stone away.  
The angels rolled the stone away,  
'Cause Jesus rose that day.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.







Ask:

- Can you show me with your arms how big you think the stone in front of the cave might have been?
- Why do you think the angels moved the stone?

Say: God sent the angels to move the stone away from the tomb for people to see that Jesus was not in the tomb. God wanted everyone to know that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

## Empty Tombs

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: In today's lesson, we learned great news— ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** When Jesus' friend Mary got to the cave where they had laid Jesus' body, the cave was empty. Jesus wasn't there, because he's alive. Let's make our own empty caves to remind us of this wonderful news.

Give each child a foam cup, a 10-inch length of string, and a crumpled brown construction-paper wad large enough to just fit inside the mouth of the cup. Show kids how to tape the end of the string to the outside bottom of the cup.

Next, tie or tape the paper wad to the other end of the string. Let children decorate the outside of the cups with markers.

Show children how to bounce the paper wads in and out of the cups. Explain that the paper wads are like the stone that was rolled away from the cave where they placed Jesus. The cups are like the empty cave that Mary found. Encourage kids to take their crafts home to help them tell their families the good news that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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 to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.



### Center 4: Empty Tombs Supplies

- 1 foam cup, 1 ten-inch length of string, and 1 sheet of brown construction paper per child
- tape
- markers

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





“Thank You, Jesus”  
Prayer  
Supplies

CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: “Thank You, Jesus”  
(track 12)

## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas 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 John 20:1-18 with you. Tell your family members that Jesus is alive!
3. Pick some flowers from outside and put them in your room to remind you that Jesus is alive!

Say: If you want to talk to Jesus each morning, circle choice number 1. If you want to read the Bible, circle choice number 2. If you want to pick some flowers, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. 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!

## “Thank You, Jesus” Prayer

### What You'll Do

Have the children form two groups. Sing “Thank You, Jesus” (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of “Frère Jacques,” with one group saying the line first and the second group echoing the words. Then let the second group start and the first group echo when the lyrics repeat.

 First group: **Thank you, Jesus.**  
 Second group: **Thank you, Jesus.**  
 First group: **You're alive!**  
 Second group: **You're alive!**  
 First group: **I believe in you.**  
 Second group: **I believe in you.**  
 First group: **Amen.**  
 Second group: **Amen.**  
*(Repeat.)*

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout 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](http://group.com/digital).