

Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8

The meaning behind Easter is an essential concept for your preteens. They've grown beyond the Easter bunny, colored eggs, and egg hunts from their childhood. But grasping the entire concept of Jesus coming back to life might be difficult for them. They can understand that Jesus' love for them caused him to surrender his life and conquer death—and that's the important message of Easter. Use this lesson to help them make a connection from Jesus' resurrection to the promise of eternal life for all those who believe in him.



► 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; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ” (John 11:25-26).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus.

| LESSON | WHAT KIDS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> | <p>Fake Out <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Witness a fake astonishing feat, and talk about their view of power.</p> | <p>beach towel</p> | |
| <p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> | <p>Clued In <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Find clues that point to Jesus' resurrection.</p> | <p>Bible, Bible Buzz, pens, “Clues” handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline</p>  | <p>Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Cut out the clues from the handout and hide them around the room.</p> |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



| LESSON | WHAT KIDS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|---|--|-----------|
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Pictures of Freedom <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures of what the Key Verse means to them. | Bible Buzz, markers or crayons | |
| | My Bondage <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Determine what weighs them down and commit those things to God. | Bible Buzz, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 4 Lasting Impressions | Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word. | Bible Buzz | |
| | Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families. | | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Fake Out Supplies

beach towel

Clued In Supplies

Bible
Bible Buzz
pens
“Clues” handout (at the
end of this lesson)
scissors
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

Clued In Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book. Cut
out the clues from the
handout and hide them
around the room.

1 GETTING STARTED

Fake Out

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Ask for a willing preteen to help you with an illusion. Take the “assistant” aside and tell him or her that when you say “Disappear!” he or she should step to one side out of the doorway.

Have your assistant stand in the doorway, and then hold the beach towel up to cover him or her.

Say: **I've invited you here today so you can witness a most amazing and astonishing feat of power. I can make this person become completely invisible. Ready? One! Two! Disappear!**

Remove the towel and show the “missing” assistant.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it hard to believe I made my assistant disappear?**
- **What would it take for you to believe I really made him [or her] disappear?**
- **Tell about a really cool trick you know.**

Say: **Today we're going to talk about Easter. And we'll see that many people try to deny the power it took to make this event happen. But you'll see that God did more than just make Jesus invisible. God wasn't pulling any tricks. He truly brought him back to life, and we can celebrate that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's look into this incredible event.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Clued In

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the “Jesus Is Alive” picture on the Bible Timeline. Say: **Today we're going to**



try to solve a mystery. Scattered around the room are clues to this mystery. I'd like everyone to go around looking for clues. Once you find one, come to the middle of the room and you can start discussing your clues with other people. No one may pick up more than one clue.

If you have fewer than eight kids, let them find two or three clues and then meet in the middle. Once all kids are in the middle, have them form trios.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids compare clues and write them in the "Clues" spaces, trying to find out what all eight clues are. They can write them in any order. Once everyone has discovered all the clues, ask kids to name one of them aloud. Then read the matching verse for the clue, as listed below. For instance, when the kids say, "the stone was moved," read Mark 16:4. Ask kids what they think this clue means. Ask trios to discuss and take notes on their Bible Buzz pages about how this clue helps prove Jesus really did come back to life, and then ask trios to report back. Repeat until kids have named and discussed all eight clues.

- Abandoned grave clothes: John 20:5
- The stone was moved: Mark 16:4
- DNA of a woman's teardrops: John 20:11-13
- Audio of Jesus saying "Mary": John 20:16
- Witness—An angel: Mark 16:5-7
- Witness—Mary: Mark 16:1-3
- Footprints from someone running: Mark 16:8
- No body: Luke 24:3

Then have kids compare clues and what they heard from the Bible and then come to a conclusion about Jesus. They can write their conclusions on the right-hand side of their Bible Buzz pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was the clue that most convinced you Jesus is alive? Why?**
- **What evidence have you personally seen that Jesus is alive?**
- **How can we convince people Jesus is alive?**
- **What does a resurrected Jesus mean for us, as compared with if Jesus had stayed dead?**

Say: **These eyewitness accounts tell the truth about Jesus: that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! He wants a relationship with you; you just have to believe.**



Pictures of Freedom Supplies

Bible Buzz
markers or crayons

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Pictures of Freedom

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the Key Verse, John 11:25-26, on their Bible Buzz pages. Read the verse aloud: **“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ” (John 11:25-26).**

Have kids repeat the Key Verse after you, phrase by phrase.

Say: ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**—he died and rose again so that we can be freed from our sins.

Ask:

- How does this verse describe Jesus’ power to set us free?
- Why is the belief part so important?

Say: I’ll give you two minutes to draw what this passage means to you. Use the space on your Bible Buzz page.

Provide markers or crayons, and have kids draw their pictures or symbols. Then ask them to take turns showing the group their drawings.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what to draw?
- What does the seeming contradiction of this verse—living even though you die—actually mean?
- How can you show Jesus you believe in him?

Say: Celebrating Easter is important. Not because we get a delicious basket of candy, but because we’re acknowledging that Jesus has the power to set us free. We celebrate Easter because ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**. The women at the tomb were shocked, amazed, and scared, but they were comforted when they found out ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** We can take comfort in that fact, too.

My Bondage

What You'll Do

Say: **Jesus' power to set people free is a personal promise. He wants to set you free from whatever you're burdened by, because he loves you, and he rose from the dead for you.**

Have kids find a place alone. Distribute pens, and direct them to the "Bound?" section of their Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **All of us, at some point, feel bound by something, and we need God's power to break free from it. Think about your lives for the next few minutes and consider the things you feel bound by. Maybe it's fear of something: failure or the future. Maybe it's a sinful pattern you've established—such as lying to your parents or hiding something from them. When you've thought about them, write them on the chained-hands illustration on your Bible Buzz page.**

Play "God's Not Dead" (track 11 on the CD) quietly in the background, and give kids time to think and write.

Say: **Jesus offers this promise of freedom to anyone who believes in him. That means anyone who has a relationship with Jesus can be freed, just like that! Jesus wants us to grow closer to him. That's the whole point of Easter, to give us a way to have a close relationship with Jesus forever. Spend the next few minutes thinking about how you can grow closer to Jesus in your life. Maybe you need to take that next step to start a relationship with him, or maybe you need to find a way to come back to the relationship you once had but have forgotten about.**

Allow kids time to think and pray.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How is being bound by sin like or unlike being dead?**
- **What are some things that keep us from letting go of sin?**
- **What hope do we have in Jesus to free us from our sins?**
- **How can that hope change our lives today?**

Say: **Thank you for sharing some tough stuff today. Sin can get in the way of our relationship with God. The Bible often talks about sin and death as a pair. But the good news is that Jesus has ultimate power over the sins that bring us down, and he has power over death. He showed that in a very obvious way when he came back to life! Then and now the message is simple: ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**



My Bondage Supplies

Bible Buzz

pens

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "God's Not Dead" (track 11)



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can celebrate this week that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **If you're not sure if Jesus has forgiven you, write a prayer to him, asking him to break you free from the bondage of your sins. He can and will.**
- **One way to grow closer to Jesus is by learning more about what he did for us. Read different perspectives of what Jesus did for you in Matthew 27:45–28:10; Mark 15:16–16:7; Luke 23:26–24:12; and John 19:28–20:18.**
- **Jesus gave his life so he could be with you. Paint or draw a portrait that expresses how you feel about Jesus' love for you.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **The women at the tomb had their expectations flipped upside down. Just like they did, you can take comfort in the fact that ► JESUS IS ALIVE as you do your Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus being alive. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for giving us hope in Jesus and asking for help keeping that hope up when things seem hopeless.



Clues



Abandoned grave clothes



The stone was moved



DNA of a woman's teardrops



Audio of Jesus saying "Mary"



Witness: An angel



Witness: Mary



Footprints from someone running



No body



OK
TO COPY

