






Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18

The children in your nursery are not too young to pick up on the joy of the Easter season. While they will not yet appreciate the spiritual significance of the Resurrection, they will understand that Easter is something special. Provide an atmosphere of celebration to help little ones grasp the joy of the season! Your joy is contagious!

INFANT

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 Getting Started | Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | Where's Jesus? Look for Jesus in a lift-and-look book. | stapler, scissors, bathroom tissue, tape Teacher Pack: Mary finger puppet, "Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture  | Cut out the Mary finger puppet. Cut out all of the squares from the teaching picture, and stack them faceup, putting a square of tissue over each picture. Place the cover page on top of the stack and the picture of Jesus at the bottom. Staple the book together, and cover the staples with a piece of tape. |
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | He's Alive! Hear a verse about Easter. | construction paper, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: Jesus figure (from the teaching picture set)  | Accordion fold two 1/2x4-inch strips of construction paper. Tape the paper strips to the back of the Jesus figure, one at the top and one at the bottom. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half horizontally, and tape the other end of the accordion strips to the inside of the sheet, one on each side of the fold. Close the "book," carefully folding the Jesus figure in half, making a pop-up book. |
| | Shell-ebrate! Find Jesus in a colorful Easter basket.  | Easter basket, several plastic Easter eggs Teacher Pack: Jesus figure (from the teaching picture set) | Fill an Easter basket or a large bowl with several colorful plastic Easter eggs. Gently remove the Jesus figure from the pop-up book you made for the "He's Alive!" activity, and hide it in the basket under the eggs. |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson) | Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Bible Point
Jesus is alive.



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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will learn that Jesus is alive.





TODDLER

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Getting Started | Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs. | CD player, picture of Jesus Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | Egg-citing News! Hear the story of how Mary found Jesus alive. | Bible, glitter glue, several plastic Easter eggs, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: Mary and angel finger puppets  | Cut out the Mary and angel finger puppets. Decorate the angel finger puppet with glitter glue. When the glue is dry (allow a few hours), fold the angel finger puppet in half, and place it in a plastic Easter egg. |
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Glory Shakers Make maracas to celebrate the Easter story. | 1 plastic Easter egg per child, uncooked rice, glue, tape, funnel, newspaper, CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| | I've Found Him! Add a picture of Jesus to the take-home page to help Mary find Jesus. | bathroom tissue, box, glue sticks, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Mary at the Tomb" page (at the end of the lesson), scissors Teacher Pack: "Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture, Mary finger puppet  | Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Make a copy of Jesus from the "Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture for each child (and a few extras for your Easter Sunday visitors). Cut out the figures. Unroll a roll of bathroom tissue into a box. Hide the pictures of Jesus among the mounds of tissue. Set aside the Mary finger puppet. |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson) | |


Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





2-YEAR-OLD



| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Getting Started | Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | Empty Tomb Hear the story of how Mary found Jesus alive. | Bible, CD player, tape, piece of cloth or paper Teacher Pack: CD, "Mary Sees Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)  | Tape a piece of cloth or paper over the picture of Jesus on the "Mary Sees Jesus" poster, taping across the top of the cloth or paper so children will be able to lift it to see Jesus underneath. Hang the poster where kids will be able to see it. |
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Easter Parade March in a parade to celebrate Easter. | crepe paper streamer for each child, scissors, CD player Teacher Pack: CD | For each child, cut a 2-foot piece of colored crepe paper streamer. |
| | Empty-Tomb Necklaces Make a necklace to remember Jesus is alive. | electric drill, one 36-inch length of yarn and 1 plastic Easter egg per child, sharpened pencil | Use a small electric drill to create holes in each end of plastic Easter eggs. |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson) | Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Jesus Appears to Mary

John 20:1-18



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Mary, John, and Peter Discover an Empty Tomb

It is obvious from Mary’s response and from that of the disciples that no one expected Jesus to rise from the dead.

The “other disciple” mentioned in verse 2 was John himself. Even though he arrived at the tomb first, he didn’t go in immediately. Bold, impetuous Peter arrived after John and burst into the tomb to see what had happened. The body was gone, but the grave clothes were still there. In fact, the wrap that had been on Jesus’ head was folded up, not tossed carelessly as a grave robber might have done. We aren’t told of Peter’s response, but we see that when John followed him in and saw the position of the grave clothes, John believed.

Peter and John left the tomb, but Mary couldn’t. For her, the disappearance of Jesus’ body was still a mystery. As she stood outside sobbing, she peered into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. In her grief, it didn’t register who or what they were. Her response to the angels’ inquiry indicates that she hadn’t grasped what had happened. She was sad because she thought Jesus’ body had been taken away. She had no comprehension that Jesus had risen.

Mary Doesn’t Recognize the Risen Jesus

Why did Mary not recognize the Lord she was looking for when she turned around and saw him? Several factors probably contributed to her lack of recognition: She knew he was dead and was not expecting him to be alive, she may not have raised her eyes to really look at him because she didn’t want to show her tears, she may not have seen clearly through her tears anyway, and Jesus was now in his glorified body—he may have looked very different from when she had last seen him.

It is interesting that Jesus repeated the same question the angels had asked Mary. The angels and Jesus were both trying to help Mary understand what had actually happened. But she just couldn’t comprehend it until Jesus called her name. She knew the voice of Jesus and recognized him.

The Jesus Connection

The same voice Mary heard calls to us, inviting, assuring, welcoming us into a full life with him—a timeless relationship with Jesus.

It was the resurrection of Jesus that changed everything and gave the disciples the courage they needed to face death unafraid. How is the resurrection of Christ changing the way you live? What questions do you have for God? Ask him right now. You can write your prayer here.






INFANT

1 GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Mary, Mary" (track 8) to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" to the babies anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with the infants.

 **Mary, Mary, where is he?**
Do you know where Jesus could be?
We looked by the rock,
And we looked by the tree.
We looked everywhere that we could see.
Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?

Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?
Yes, friends, yes, friends, I did see!
Jesus came and talked to me.
Our friend Jesus lives today.
Let's all clap and shout hooray!

Sing "Jesus Is Alive" (not on CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" to the babies anytime during the lesson. As you sing, march babies' feet and legs on the third line and clap their hands on the fourth line.

 **Jesus, Jesus is alive**
On this Easter day.

We will march, we will shout,
"He lives for us today!"

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Where's Jesus?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form the Mary finger puppet around your finger, and tape the ends in place. Hold a baby on your lap so he or she can see the book.

Say: **One day Mary** (show the finger puppet) **couldn't find Jesus. She looked in a garden to find him. Let's try to find Jesus with Mary.** Lift the first sheet of bathroom tissue.

Ask:

- **Is Jesus here? What is this?** Identify the objects on the page. Repeat the same process with each page until you find Jesus.



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Mary, Mary"
(track 8)

Where's Jesus? Supplies

stapler
scissors
bathroom tissue
tape

Teacher Pack

Mary finger puppet
"Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture

Where's Jesus? Easy Prep

Cut out the Mary finger puppet. Cut out all of the squares from the teaching picture, and stack them faceup, putting a square of tissue over each picture. Place the cover page on top of the stack and the picture of Jesus at the bottom. Staple the book together, and cover the staples with a piece of tape.





He's Alive! Supplies

construction paper
tape
scissors

Teacher Pack

Jesus figure

He's Alive! Easy Prep

Accordion fold two ½x4-inch strips of construction paper. Tape the paper strips to the back of the Jesus figure, one at the top and one at the bottom. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half horizontally, and tape the other end of the accordion strips to the inside of the sheet, one on each side of the fold. Close the “book,” carefully folding the Jesus figure in half, making a pop-up book.

Shell-ebrate! Supplies

Easter basket
several plastic Easter
eggs

Teacher Pack

Jesus figure

When you get to the page with the picture of Jesus, say: **Hooray, Mary found Jesus!**
▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

He's Alive!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold a baby on your lap with the pop-up book you made earlier in hand. Read the following verse, and open the book on the last line.

Where is Jesus, [baby's name]?
Did he go away?
I know he gave his life for you,
And he rose on Easter day. (*Pop the book open.*)

Say: **Look—here is Jesus.** ▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Shell-ebrate!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set the Easter basket you prepared earlier on the floor in front of a baby.

Say: **Mary looked for Jesus in the garden. Can you find Jesus' picture?** Help the baby sort through the plastic eggs and find the Jesus figure. When the Jesus figure is found, say: ▶ **JESUS IS ALIVE. Hooray!**

Return the Jesus figure to the Teacher Pack for use in Lesson 10.



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing “Mary, Mary” (track 8) to the tune of “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep” anytime during the lesson. Hide a picture of Jesus, and let the toddlers look for it as you play the song. Clap and shout “Hooray!” when the Jesus picture is found.

Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?
We looked by the rock,
And we looked by the tree.
We looked everywhere that we could see.
Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?

Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?
Yes, friends, yes, friends, I did see!
Jesus came and talked to me.
Our friend Jesus lives today.
Let’s all clap and shout hooray!

Sing “Jesus Is Alive” (not on CD) to the tune of “Yankee Doodle” anytime during the lesson.

Jesus, Jesus is alive
On this Easter day.
We will march, we will shout,
“He lives for us today!”



Shell-ebrate! Easy Prep

Fill an Easter basket or a large bowl with several colorful plastic Easter eggs. Gently remove the Jesus figure from the pop-up book you made for the “He’s Alive!” activity, and hide it in the basket under the eggs.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
picture of Jesus
Teacher Pack
CD: “Mary, Mary”
(track 8)





Egg-citing News! Supplies

Bible
glitter glue
several plastic Easter
eggs
scissors
tape
Teacher Pack
Mary and angel finger
puppets

Egg-citing News! Easy Prep

Cut out the Mary and
angel finger puppets.
Decorate the angel
finger puppet with
glitter glue. When the
glue is dry (allow a few
hours), fold the angel
finger puppet in half,
and place it in a plastic
Easter egg.

Glory Shakers Supplies

1 plastic Easter egg per
child
uncooked rice
glue
tape
funnel
newspaper
CD player
Teacher Pack:
CD: "His Great Love"
(Romans 5:8) (track 7)

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Egg-citing News!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form the Mary finger puppet around your finger, and tape the ends in place. Place the egg (with the hidden angel puppet) with several others on the floor near you. Then open your Bible to John 20, and gather a few toddlers.

Say: **Last week we learned that Jesus died for us. But on Easter, we celebrate that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Hooray!** Clap and shout.

Jesus' friend Mary (show the finger puppet) **thought that she would never see Jesus again. She was very sad. But then she found two angels who asked her why she was sad. Let's see if we can find an angel.** Help the toddlers open the plastic eggs until you find the angel finger puppet. **Look at the sparkling angel! The angels said, "Don't look here! Jesus is alive!" How does it make you feel to know that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?** Encourage the children's celebration.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Glory Shakers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When Mary knew Jesus was alive, she was very happy. Let's make some happy noisemakers to celebrate that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Help toddlers, one at a time, pour a small handful of uncooked rice through a funnel and into one half of an empty plastic Easter egg. Do this over newspaper for easy cleanup. Before snapping the egg together, apply a line of glue around the rim. Tape around the edge so children can use the "maracas" immediately. Then demonstrate how to make music by shaking the egg. Play the song "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 7) on the CD, and have children dance and shake their maracas to the rhythm.

Say: **We give glory to God on Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE.**



I've Found Him!

What You'll Do

Give one child at a time a copy of the "Mary at the Tomb" handout. Show him or her the Mary finger puppet.

Ask:

- **How did Mary feel when she couldn't find Jesus?** Allow the toddler to respond.

Say: **Mary was very sad and worried. But then she found Jesus, and they talked together. Can you look for Jesus in this box?** When the child finds a picture of Jesus, say: ► **JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's glue his picture next to Mary.** Help the child put glue on the back of the picture of Jesus and place it next to Mary on the handout.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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I've Found Him! Supplies

- bathroom tissue
- box
- glue sticks
- My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Mary at the Tomb" page (at the end of the lesson)
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- "Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture
- Mary finger puppet

I've Found Him! Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Make a copy of Jesus from the "Scenes From the Garden" teaching picture for each child (and a few extras for your Easter Sunday visitors). Cut out the figures. Unroll a roll of bathroom tissue into a box. Hide the pictures of Jesus among the mounds of tissue. Set aside the Mary finger puppet.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)





Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Mary, Mary"
 (track 8)

Empty Tomb Supplies

Bible
 CD player
 tape
 piece of cloth or paper
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Morning in the Garden, Parts 1, 2, and 3" (tracks 9-11)
 "Mary Sees Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Empty Tomb Easy Prep

Tape a piece of cloth or paper over the picture of Jesus on the "Mary Sees Jesus" poster, taping across the top of the cloth or paper so children will be able to lift it to see Jesus underneath. Hang the poster where kids will be able to see it.


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate


What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Mary, Mary" (track 8) to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" anytime during the lesson. Choose one child to be Jesus and to hide somewhere in the room. Choose another child to be Mary and to go look for the first child as you play the song. Encourage all the children to cheer when Jesus is found at the end of the song.

 **Mary, Mary, where is he?**
Do you know where Jesus could be?
We looked by the rock,
And we looked by the tree.
We looked everywhere that we could see.
Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?

Mary, Mary, where is he?
Do you know where Jesus could be?
Yes, friends, yes, friends, I did see!
Jesus came and talked to me.
Our friend Jesus lives today.
Let's all clap and shout hooray!

Sing "Jesus Is Alive" (not on CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" anytime during the lesson.

 **Jesus, Jesus is alive**
On this Easter day.
We will march, we will shout,
"He lives for us today!"

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Empty Tomb

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the twos, and show the children John 20 in your Bible.

Ask:

- **Who has gone for a walk in a garden? What are some of the sounds you heard?** Give twos time to respond.

Say: **You may have heard some birds like this.** Play "Morning in the Garden, Part 1" (track 9).



Say: **After Jesus died, his friends put his body in a tomb in a garden. Mary went to the garden to care for Jesus' body. Let's pretend to take a walk through the garden with Mary. We'll hold hands and walk in a circle.** As soon as the children have started walking, turn on the CD player to "Morning in the Garden, Part 2" (track 10).

Say: **Jesus' body wasn't in the tomb! Mary walked around the garden looking for him. She felt sad. She heard the birds singing, but something was happening that she couldn't hear. Let's find out what happened.**

Have children hold hands and stand still as you play "Morning in the Garden, Part 3" (track 11). At the end, you will hear a voice call "Mary."

Ask:

- **Who said that?** Let children respond.

Lead kids to the "Mary Sees Jesus" poster. Say: **Let's see who was calling Mary in the garden.** Let kids take turns lifting the piece of cloth on the poster to look at Jesus' picture underneath.

Say: **Mary was so happy! She wanted everyone to know that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. We want to tell everyone, too. Let's step to the center of our circle, holding hands, and raise our arms together as we shout "Jesus is alive!"** Step in and out, repeating "Jesus is alive!" **We can tell our mommies, "Jesus is alive!"** Step back. **We can tell our daddies, "Jesus is alive!"**

Repeat this process several times, naming different people who are important to twos.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Easter Parade

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold up the streamers you made earlier.

Say: **Let's have an Easter parade. People have parades with noise and music on special days. Easter is a special day because Jesus is alive.**

Play "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 7) on the CD. Show the children how to wave their streamers in the air as they march around the room. When the music stops, lead them in cheering ► **"JESUS IS ALIVE!"**



Easter Parade Supplies

- crepe paper streamer for each child
- scissors
- CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 7)

Easter Parade Easy Prep

For each child, cut a 2-foot piece of colored crepe paper streamer.





Empty-Tomb Necklaces Supplies

electric drill
one 36-inch length of yarn and 1 plastic Easter egg per child
sharpened pencil

Empty-Tomb Necklaces Easy Prep

Use a small electric drill to create holes in each end of plastic Easter eggs.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Empty-Tomb Necklaces

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Set out the pairs of egg halves you drilled earlier on a table, open end down. Work with one child at a time to poke each end of the length of yarn into the holes, using a sharpened pencil as necessary to help feed the yarn through the holes. Tie a knot at the ends of the yarn to prevent it from coming out of the holes. Let the child put the egg together (on the yarn), and hang the necklace around his or her neck.

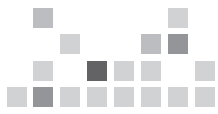
Say: **When Mary went to the tomb, there was nothing inside. Open your “empty-tomb necklace” and tell me what’s inside.** Encourage or help the child to open the egg and tell you what’s inside. **There’s nothing in the tomb because ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Repeat this process several times with the child.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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Growing With Jesus



Your child learned Jesus is alive (from John 20:1-18). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Shell-ebrate!

Fill an Easter basket or a large bowl with several colorful plastic Easter eggs. Draw a simple picture of Jesus on a piece of paper, and hide the paper under the eggs. Set the basket on the floor in front of your baby.

Say: **Mary looked for Jesus in the garden. Can you find Jesus' picture?** Help the baby sort through the plastic eggs and find the Jesus picture. When the Jesus picture is found, say: **Jesus is alive. Hooray!**

TODDLER

Glory Shakers

Make a happy noisemaker to celebrate with your toddler that Jesus is alive.

Using a funnel, help your child fill half of a plastic Easter egg with uncooked rice (or several jelly beans, if you prefer). Before snapping the egg together, apply a line of glue around the rim. Tape around the edge so your child can use the "maraca" immediately. Demonstrate how to make music by shaking the egg. Sing a song, and have your toddler dance and shake his or her maraca to the rhythm.

Say: **We give glory to God on Easter because Jesus is alive.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Easter Parade

Cut a 2-foot piece of colored crepe paper streamer.

Say: **Let's have an Easter parade. People have parades with noise and music on special days. Easter is a special day because Jesus is alive.**

Play some cheery music as you show your child how to wave his or her streamer in the air as he or she marches around the room. When the music stops, lead your child in cheering "Jesus is alive!"



Joyful Phrases

Your child may have picked up some new language while learning about the celebration of the Resurrection. Words like *hosanna* and phrases like "Jesus is alive" can be reviewed throughout the year as you listen to praise music or finish a prayer time. These words, and the context in which your child learned them, foreshadow the lifelong joy we can experience as followers of our resurrected Lord.



Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Using a blanket, play Peekaboo. Tell your child that Jesus appeared to Mary and told her that he is alive.
- Decorate Easter eggs. Explain that the empty shells baby chicks leave behind remind us of the empty tomb Jesus left behind.

**OK
TO COPY**



Mary at the Tomb



OK
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Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

