Jesus is our Lord.

Bible Verse
“And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
(Philippians 2:11).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- learn that Jesus died as part of God’s plan for our forgiveness,
- understand that we can always trust God,
- realize that it can be hard to follow God, and
- help Pockets see that following Jesus is sometimes hard.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- Peter denies Jesus.

Mark 14:53-72; 15:21-41
The high priest and chief priests, together with experts in Old Testament law and Jewish legal tradition, formed the Sanhedrin, the governing council of the Jews. The Sanhedrin had authority to rule over religious and legal matters, within the limits imposed by the Roman governor. For example, they could not impose the death penalty on their own, as seen in John 18:31. They should have been the spiritual caregivers of Israel, who welcomed the Messiah; instead they conspired to kill Jesus. By night (the entire set of proceedings took place before dawn), they conducted a shady trial, during which they tried in vain to level trumped up charges against Jesus (Mark 14:55-56). In the end, they decided he should die for claiming to be the Messiah (Mark 14:61-64).

During Jesus’ trial, Peter—who was a leader of the apostles, and who had more than once sworn he would never abandon Jesus no matter what happened—denied even knowing Jesus, three times in short succession! The third time, Peter went so far as to vow before God that he did not know Jesus (Mark 14:71). The third time, additionally, a rooster crowed, reminding Peter that Jesus had predicted his betrayal. Peter was immediately struck with overwhelming sorrow. Yet Jesus later forgave him and restored him to fellowship and service (John 21:15-17).

Prayer
- Read Mark 14:31, 50.
- Is there currently an area of your life that amounts to a denial of knowing Jesus? What can you do about it?
- Pray: Lord, help me never to deny knowing you. Help me always to remain faithful to you no matter what. Help me be an example to the children by…
Lesson 3

Before the Lesson
- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Cross Name Tags” (p. 14), markers, safety pins or tape

• Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
• Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
• Thank each child for coming to class today.
• As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned…” discussion. Use questions such as “What ways did your family pray for each other?” or “When did you talk to God last week?”
• Say: **Today we’re going to learn that Jesus is our Lord.**
• Hand out the cross name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If any of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
• Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among children to offer help as needed and to direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Who do you think of when you see a cross?” or “Why is it important to follow directions?”

**Option 1: Mosaic Cross**

SUPPLIES: poster board, scissors, newspaper, bowl, liquid starch, colored tissue paper, paintbrushes

Before class, cut an 8-inch-high poster-board cross for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Place a bowl of liquid starch and colored tissue paper on the table. Hand each child a poster-board cross and a paintbrush. Have the children tear tissue paper into small pieces and then brush the cross with liquid starch. Show children how to lay the small pieces of tissue paper on the cross.

As children work, explain that the symbol of a cross reminds us that **Jesus is our Lord** and that he chose to give his life for us. Tell children that today they’ll hear a story about Jesus and why the cross makes us think of him.

**Option 2: Follow Me!**

SUPPLIES: photocopies of the “Follow Me!” handout (p. 55), paper cup, colored cereal pieces, scissors, cardboard, red and blue markers

Before class, photocopy the “Follow Me!” game board handout. Make one copy for every two children. Also cut out a small cardboard circle, about the size of a quarter, for each pair. Color one side of each circle red and the other side blue.

**BIBLE POINT**

Be sure to repeat the Bible Point exactly as it’s written each time it appears. You may feel you’re being redundant, but you’re actually helping children remember an important Bible truth. Studies show that people need to hear new information up to 75 times to learn it. Repetition is a good thing—especially for 5- and 6-year-olds.

**BIBLE POINT**

Encourage children to overlap the tissue paper on the cross to create color variations. Tell them to work on one portion of the cross at a time.
Place enough cereal pieces in a paper cup so each child can have one. Have children form pairs. Hand each pair of children a game board. Have each child take a cereal piece for a game marker and place it at START. Explain that the point of the game is to follow the path until they reach HOME. Have children flip the cardboard circle. The person who flips “red” goes first. Take turns flipping the circle and moving the cereal pieces. “Red” moves ahead two spaces, and “blue” moves back one space. Tell children to follow the arrows on the spaces. Play until both players reach HOME.

As children play, circulate and make comments such as “You’re following the directions well” and “It’s not easy to follow when the path takes you where you don’t want to go, is it?” Tell children that they’ll hear a Bible story about the disciples following Jesus and how Jesus followed God’s plan. Point out that Jesus is our Lord and that he always followed God’s directions.

After the game, let children snack on the extra cereal pieces as they review what they learned in class last week.

**Option 3: I Don’t Know You**

**SUPPLIES:** none

In one corner of the room, set a chair facing the wall. Tell children it’s the “I-don’t-know-you” chair. Invite a child to sit in the chair. Quietly tap another child to stand behind the chair and give clues about his or her identity, such as “I have brown hair” or “I’m a girl.” Each time a clue is given, the person in the chair says, “I don’t know you.” When the child sitting in the chair thinks he or she can identify the mystery person, the child says, “I know you! You’re [name of the child].”

As children play, remind them that Jesus is our Lord and that soon they’ll hear a story about how Peter said he didn’t know Jesus. Continue playing the game until each person has had a chance to sit in the special chair.

After everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

**Pick Up Our Toys**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You’ll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

**SING**

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys,
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** paper, marker, tape

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Before class, write the word “yes” on one sheet of paper and the word “no” on another. Tape the papers to opposite walls.

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Say: I’m going to read each of you a sentence. When you hear the sentence, you can either give a “thumbs up,” which means you agree with the sentence, or you can give a “thumbs down,” which means you deny, or don’t agree with, the sentence. Since it’s just a game, it’s OK to try to trick us. Then the rest of us will decide whether we believe you or not. If we think the answer is yes, we’ll run to the “yes” paper. If we think the answer is no, we’ll run to the “no” paper. Then you can use your other thumb to tell us the real answer.

For example, I might say, “I like ice cream and pickles” and give a thumbs up. Run to “yes” if you think I really like pickles and ice cream or to “no” if you think I don’t like them. Then I’ll give you the real answer with my other thumb.

Use the following statements. Let children run to the “yes” or “no” papers and then return to the center. Continue until each child has had a chance to agree with or deny a statement.

- You like broccoli.
- You’re 6 years old.
- You like the color orange.
- Riding a bike is your favorite hobby.
- You have three sisters.
- Your parents drive a green car.
- You want to be a tennis star when you grow up.
- You like to swim.

Say: In our game, it was OK to try to trick each other, but in real life it’s not OK. But sometimes it’s hard to tell the truth. Let’s hear a story about a time one disciple lied and said he didn’t know that Jesus is our Lord.

**BIBLE POINT**

Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch strips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and stamp the cross stamp in the Bible you’ll be using.
Lesson 3

Have children sit in a circle. Say: Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, hand out the folded surprise cards.

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the cross stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.

Identify the Bible person. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that Jesus is our Lord. And we’ll find out how Jesus prayed to God.

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn that Jesus is our Lord. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “Jesus, please help me remember that you are Lord.”

Pass around the basket or box. After you’ve collected all the surprise cards, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: God, thank you for the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that Jesus is our Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, box, thorny rose stem, nail, stone

Before class, gather the following items and place them in a box: a thorny rose stem, a nail, and a stone.

Bring out the Bible Big Book: Peter Tells the Easter Story.

Say: Let’s see if you can find things in the pictures of our Bible Big Book to help us review the story. When I ask if you can find something in the picture, put your hand on your head. I’ll choose someone to point to the picture and answer a question.

Hold up the open Bible Big Book to page 1. Ask the following questions:

• Find the water in the picture. What did Jesus do with the water? (He washed his disciples’ feet.)
• Find Peter. How did he feel about Jesus washing his feet? (Peter was embarrassed; he thought Jesus shouldn't wash his feet.)

Fold back the Bible Big Book so children see only page 2.

• Find Jesus. Why was he praying to God? (He needed strength; he knew he was going to die.)

• Find Peter. What did Jesus say Peter would do? (Say he didn't know Jesus.)

Fold back the Bible Big Book so children see only page 3.

• Find the guards. What did they do in the garden? (Arrested Jesus.)

• Find Peter. Why did he run away? (He was afraid; he didn't want to be arrested along with Jesus.)

Say: Good job! Now let’s hear the next part of the story. It’s a very sad part about Peter saying he didn’t know Jesus and about how Jesus followed God’s plan even though it was hard. You can help me tell the story, I have some things for you to touch and look at as we listen to the story. I’ll pass them to you when it’s time.

Open the Bible Big Book to page 4. Remind children that Peter is doing the talking in the story. Read the story below, and lead children in the accompanying actions.

I didn’t know where the other disciples ran. I was afraid, but I had to know what was happening to Jesus. I quietly followed the crowd back to Jerusalem. Stand and tiptoe around the Big Book one time. They took Jesus to the house of the high priest. I could see people being mean to Jesus. I was afraid.

I sat by a fire with some of the guards. Sit down and warm your hands. A servant girl said, “You were with Jesus.” I was scared, so I said, “No! I don’t know Jesus!” Two more times people asked if I knew Jesus, and I said, “No!” Then the rooster crowed. Can you show me what a rooster sounds like? Pause for children to crow like roosters. Then clap your hands for quiet, and wait for children to respond. I remembered what Jesus told me—before the rooster crowed, I would say I didn’t know him three times. I started to cry.

Lay the Bible Big Book down.

Ask: • What would you say if someone asked if you knew Jesus? (Yes; I’m not sure.)

• Why did Peter say he didn’t know Jesus? (He was afraid; he didn’t want to get arrested.)

• How do you think Peter felt after he lied? (Bad; sad; rotten because he lied.)

Say: Peter was afraid. It was hard for him to follow Jesus. Peter said he didn’t know Jesus because Peter didn’t want to be arrested by the same guards who arrested Jesus. Let’s see what happens next.

Hold the Bible Big Book open to page 5. Continue reading the story below.

There was a trial, and the temple leaders told lies about Jesus. The angry crowd believed the lies. So even though Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong, they condemned him to die.

They put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head. Hold the rose stem and let each child very gently feel the thorns, and then continue reading. They made Jesus carry a heavy wooden cross up the hill. Then the soldiers nailed Jesus’ hands and feet to the cross. Have the children carefully feel the nail. I cried because I loved Jesus—and because I’d said I didn’t know him. And as we watched, Jesus, our Lord, died on the cross. The sky turned dark and the earth shook. I didn’t know what to do.
Lesson 3

They carried Jesus away and laid him in a tomb. Then the soldiers sealed the tomb with a huge stone. Pass the stone around the circle.

Close the Bible Big Book. Wait a few moments before you continue.

Ask: • How does this story make you feel? (Sad; not good; I feel bad that the people killed Jesus.)

• We learned that Jesus can do miracles; why do you think Jesus didn’t use a miracle to escape? (He wanted to obey God; Jesus knew he had to die for us; it wasn’t in God’s plan.)

Say: ►Jesus is our Lord, and Jesus followed God even when it was hard. God had a plan. If Jesus died for us, God could forgive our sins. Then we could live in heaven with Jesus.

Ask: • How do you think Peter felt when Jesus died? (Bad; really sad; he cried a lot.)

• Do you think Peter wished he could tell Jesus he was sorry? Explain. (Yes, because Peter loved Jesus; no, because he was still afraid.)

Say: We’ve learned that ►Jesus is our Lord and that Jesus can do anything. Next week we’ll hear how Jesus came back to life and is alive today!

The disciples didn’t understand yet why God let Jesus die on the cross. Let’s sing a song to help us remember why Jesus died for us.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player

Lead the children in singing “That’s Why He Died” (track 6) with the CD to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.”

On a cross, my Jesus died.
His disciples stood and cried
Because they could not understand
That this was part of God’s good plan.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
That’s why he died for me.

Jesus gave his life that day
So he could take my sins away.
Now I’ll live as God’s true friend.
In heaven, my life will never end.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
That’s why he died for me.

Turn off the CD player.
Peter Denies Jesus

Ask: • Why did Jesus die? (Because he loves us; because it was God’s plan; to take my sins away.)

Say: You sang so well. I have something for you. Put a cross stamp on each child’s hand. The cross will help you remember that Jesus is our Lord. It’s sad to think of Jesus dying. But it makes me happy to remember that he came back to life. We’ll find out about that next week.

Jesus was willing to die on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sins. That way, we can live forever in heaven. And do you know what else? When we believe in Jesus, he’ll be our best friend here on earth! Jesus loves you! That’s why he died on the cross.

Let’s see if Pockets knows how much Jesus loves us.

Closing

Some Friend

SUPPLIES: facial tissue, tape

Before this activity, tape a facial tissue to Pockets’ paw. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo. Go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.

(Pockets comes in sniffing softly and dabbing her nose.)

Teacher: Pockets, what seems to be the matter? You look very unhappy.

Pockets: Oh, I did something wrong, and now I don’t know what to do.

(Sniffles.)

Teacher: If you tell us what’s wrong, maybe we can help. We’re your friends, and we like helping you.

Pockets: (Moaning loudly) Ooohhh!

Teacher: (Patting Pockets lovingly) But Pockets, you are our friend.

Pockets: I know—you’re my friends, too. But I told some people at school that Sarah wasn’t my friend and that I didn’t know her.

Teacher: But I thought you and Sarah were good friends. Why would you say those things?
Lesson 3

**Pockets:** Well, Sarah had her hair fixed a different way, and lots of the kangaroos at school were laughing at her. They asked me if Sarah and I were friends. I didn’t want to be laughed at, too, so I said that we weren’t friends and that I didn’t know her. *(Sobs.)* Now I feel real bad, and I don’t know what to dooo, boohoo!

**Teacher:** Maybe we can help. We heard a story today about how Peter told some people he didn’t know Jesus. Let’s tell Pockets about the day that Peter denied that Jesus was his friend. *(Encourage children to retell the Bible story of how Peter denied Jesus. Have them point out that Peter cried because he’d been untruthful.)* Peter said he didn’t know Jesus, just as you denied knowing Sarah. But guess what? ►**Jesus is our Lord,** and because he loved Peter so much, Jesus forgave Peter! I think Sarah would forgive you, too, if you ask her.

**Pockets:** Do you really think so? *(Pauses for their response.)* Thanks for telling me the Bible story about Peter. If Jesus forgave Peter, maybe Sarah will forgive me, too. I’m going to hop right over to her house! ’Bye!

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**Crisscross**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, pretzel sticks, CD player

Gather children at a table. Hand each child three pretzel sticks. Tell children to make a cross using all three of the sticks. They may use two sticks for either the vertical or horizontal branch. When the crosses have been made, ask:

- **How many times did Peter deny he knew Jesus?** *(Three.)*

  Say: *Each time I ask you if you know Jesus, shout ►**Jesus is our Lord!** and eat one pretzel stick.*

  Ask three times: **Do you know Jesus?**

  When all of the pretzel sticks have been eaten, say: **We’re glad Jesus always followed God—even when it was hard. Let’s say a prayer and thank God for sending Jesus. Pray: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. His love was so great that he died for us. Thank you for helping Jesus follow you, even when it was hard. Please help us to follow you, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

  Even though we’re sad that Jesus died, we know that he came back to life. We can trust God to make things work out for the best. We can be happy that God loves us and that ►**Jesus is our Lord!**

  Open your Bible and show children where today’s Bible verse is found. **Our Bible verse, Philippians 2:11, says ►**“And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

  **Let’s sing our song about that Bible verse before we go. Let’s show Jesus how much we love him!**

  Lead children in singing “The Name of Jesus” *(Philippians 2:10-11)* *(track 4). If time permits, sing the song more than once, and encourage kids to sing it for their families on the way home.
**SING**

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (clap, clap)  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth (clap, clap),  
Under the earth (clap, clap),  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

To the glory of God the Father;  
To the glory of God the Father;  
To the glory of God the Father;  
Every knee, every tongue, every one!  
Every knee, every tongue, every one!

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (clap, clap)  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth (clap, clap),  
Under the earth (clap, clap),  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

To the glory of God the Father;  
To the glory of God the Father;  
To the glory of God the Father;  
Every knee, every tongue, every one!  
Every knee, every tongue, every one!

Jesus Christ is Lord!  
Jesus Christ is Lord!  
Jesus Christ is Lord!  
Jesus Christ is Lord!  

*The Name of Jesus* (Philippians 2:10-11) by Carol Smith. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
Lesson 3

For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Lively Learning: Jesus Is Lord!**
  Gather children in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be the Tapper. Have that child walk around the circle, touching each child lightly on the head and saying “Peter.” When the Tapper touches a child and says, “Jesus is Lord!” that child jumps up and chases the Tapper around the circle. If the Tapper is tagged, he or she must go again. If the Tapper makes it safely to the empty place in the circle, the child who was tapped becomes the Tapper.

- **Make to Take: Crosses to Wear**
  Before this activity, cut one 6-inch length and two 3-inch lengths of chenille wire for each child. You’ll also need one 14-inch length of yarn for each child. Have children each get with a partner. Hand each child two 3-inch pieces and one 6-inch piece of chenille wire. Have one partner hold two shorter wires in a cross shape. Have the other person wrap the longer wire in a crisscross pattern around the crossing point, securing the wires together as a cross. Demonstrate how to tie the ends of the yarn around the cross to make a necklace. Repeat for the other partners’ necklaces. As the children work, tell them that when they wear a cross, it tells others that Jesus is our Lord.

- **Treat to Eat: Cracker Crosses**
  Hand each child four long, rectangular-shaped crackers. Show children how to create a cracker cross by spreading soft cream cheese in the center of a cracker. Lay a second cracker lengthwise on top. Let each child make two cracker crosses to eat. While they enjoy their treats, ask questions such as “Why is the cross so important to Christians?” and “Why did Jesus die?” Remind children that Jesus is our Lord and that he died because he loves us and wants us to be God’s friends.

- **Story Picture: Peter Denies Jesus**
  Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Set out crayons, glue, and craft feathers. Tell children to color the picture, and then glue feathers on the rooster’s tail. As children work, tell them that Jesus is our Lord and that we want to tell everyone we know about Jesus.
Follow Me!

Place a cereal piece as a game marker at START.
Flip a colored cardboard circle for your move.
Red, go ahead two spaces. Blue, go back one space.
Follow the arrows, and play until everyone makes it HOME.
Today your child learned that Jesus is our Lord. Children learned about Peter’s denial of Jesus and how Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. They talked about the fact that following God isn’t always easy.

**Verse to Learn**

“And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11).

**Ask Me...**

- Why did Peter say he didn’t know Jesus?
- How can you let others know that Jesus is our Lord?
- What are some ways our family can follow Jesus?

**Family Fun**

- Go for a walk in the woods or a park, and let your child collect two small tree branches. Help your child tie twine or yarn in a crisscross pattern around the branches to create a cross. Write “Jesus is our Lord” on an index card. Help your child attach the card to the center of the cross with tape or staples. Hang the cross beside your doorway to let people know your family knows Jesus.

**Peter Denies Jesus (Mark 14:53-72; 15:21-41)**