

THE
**GOSPEL
PROJECT**
FOR PRESCHOOL

Jesus Saves

Preschool Worship Guide



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LifeWay | Preschool

THE GOSPEL PROJECT[®]

FOR PRESCHOOL

*The Gospel Project for Preschool:
Worship Guide*

Jesus Saves

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guidelines, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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Write the dates for each session here!

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help little minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



GOD IS KING.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



GOD SENT JESUS.

Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



JESUS LOVES.

Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.

Worship at a Glance



Leader Bible study

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption



Suggested times

The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour and fifteen minutes. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

Say what?

Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

Preparation

Pray for your preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

Pray for your preschoolers

Send a parent e-mail

Print/download printables

Assemble supplies

Prepare videos

Bible Story

Key Passage

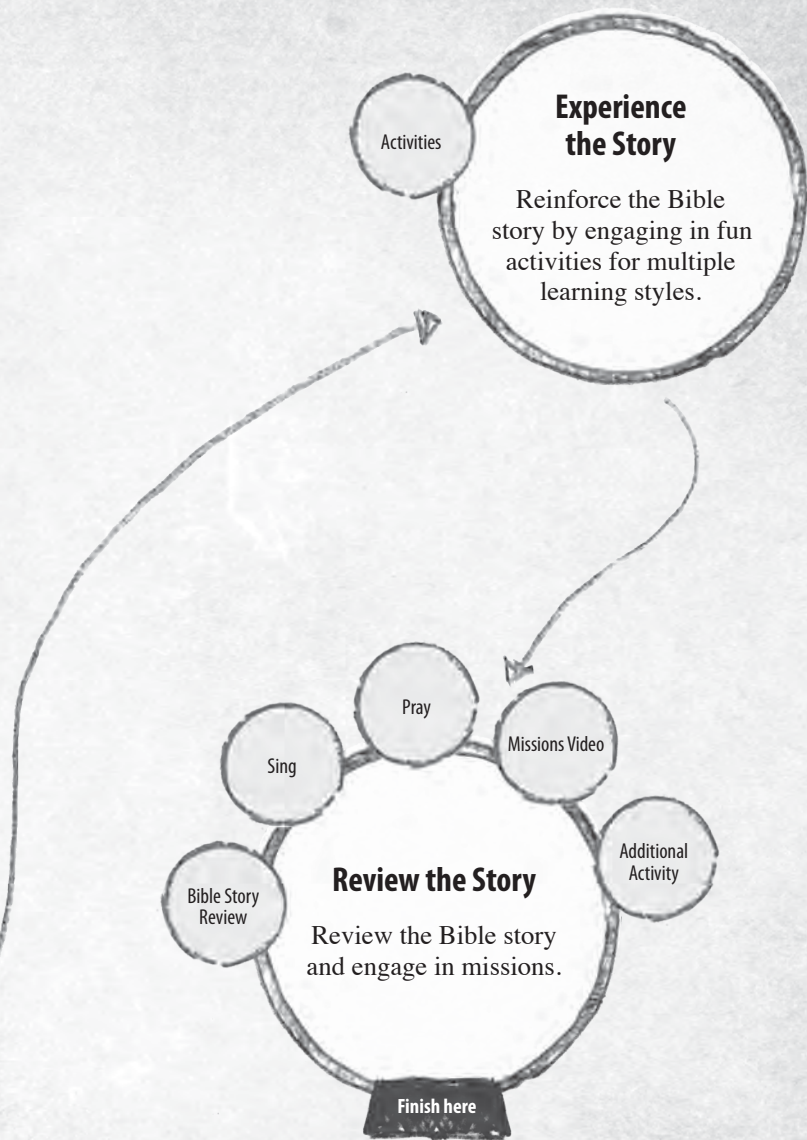
Songs & Music Videos

Big Picture Question

Pray

Teach the Story

Worship through music. Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.



Unit 25: Jesus the Anointed One

Unit Description:

As people began to turn against Jesus, He journeyed toward Jerusalem where He knew He would be arrested and crucified. Jesus continued to tell people that they needed to repent, and He prepared His true followers for His death.

Key Passage:

Luke 4:18

Big Picture Question:

Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.



Unit 25: Jesus the Anointed One

Session 1:

Bible Story:

Jesus Was Anointed

Bible Passage:

Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

Main Point:

Mary anointed Jesus.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Jesus Was Arrested

Bible Passage:

Matthew 26:36-27:2

Main Point:

Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

Jesus Cleansed the Temple

Bible Passage:

Matthew 21:12-17;

Mark 11:15-19

Main Point:

Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

The Last Supper

Bible Passage:

Matthew 26:26-30;

John 13:1-15

Main Point:

Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.

1 Jesus Was Anointed

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

MAIN POINT: Mary anointed Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
PAGE 14



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Three decades had passed since Jesus arrived on earth as a helpless baby. He grew up and began His ministry. People wondered, Could this be the Messiah? From the time sin entered the world through Adam, God was working out His rescue plan. Finally, at just the right time, God sent His Son into the world.

John the Baptist announced Jesus' purpose: "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

(John 1:29). Jesus called disciples to follow Him, and He spent three years teaching people about God and proclaiming the good news.

People began talking about the possible Messiah. If He really was the “Anointed One”—the promised Deliverer—when would He rise up against the Roman government? As Jesus’ ministry came to a close, He made His way toward Jerusalem. But Jesus wasn’t about to overthrow a government; He was about to die.

Jesus was eating supper at Simon’s house in Bethany when Mary (the sister of Lazarus) poured oil over Jesus. Her act angered the disciples, who thought the oil should have been sold and the money used to help the poor. But Jesus affirmed Mary for her actions. Mary did not waste the oil; she used it to worship Jesus. Jesus allowed Mary to anoint Him because He deserved to be anointed. Jesus is more valuable than anything.

Help the preschoolers you teach see the bigger picture here. What happened in the days leading to Jesus’ death was part of God’s plan. Jesus said that Mary had prepared Him for burial. (Matt. 26:12) Days later, Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from sin. On the third day, He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive!

Jesus is our Lord and Savior. God calls us to treasure Him more than anything or anyone else. We can show our love for Him through the ways we worship. He is worthy of all our praise.

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Check out the video “The Big Story” for a picture of this quarter’s part in God’s big story of redemption.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Relax around a table:** Lower the legs of a table or set a large piece of cardboard on some blocks to form a low table. Lay pillows or beanbag chairs around the table. Invite preschoolers to relax around the table as you tell the Bible story.
- **Use a fancy perfume bottle:** Hold a fancy bottle of perfume while you tell the Bible story. Pantomime Mary's actions at the appropriate moments.

Jesus Was Anointed

Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

Every year, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday called Passover. They gathered together to remember a special event that happened long ago. When God's people were slaves in Egypt, God rescued His people. God did great things to show the king of Egypt that God is in charge. Finally, the king of Egypt let God's people go. God made Moses a leader of His people. Moses led them out of Egypt to a land God had promised to give them.

God did not want His people to forget what happened in Egypt, so every year, the Jewish people had a feast to remember. Many of the people traveled to the city of Jerusalem to get ready for the celebration.

A few days before the Passover feast began, **Jesus went to the town of Bethany. Jesus' friend Lazarus lived in Bethany. Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, lived there too.**

Jesus went to a friend's house for a meal. Jesus was relaxing at the table when Mary came to Him. She had a jar, and inside the jar was some very expensive oil. The oil smelled good, like a perfume. Mary broke open the jar and poured the oil on Jesus' head and feet.

Jesus' friends were at the house, and they were upset! They thought Mary had done a silly thing. The oil was worth a lot of money. One of Jesus' friends said, "She could have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor!"

Jesus' friends told Mary that she had done the wrong thing, **but Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done a very good thing for Me.**

Then Jesus said, “You will always have people around you who are poor, but you will not always have Me.”

Jesus was going away soon. He **knew He was going to die**. By pouring oil on Jesus, Mary got Jesus’ body ready to be buried.

Jesus said that many people would hear about the good thing Mary had done. He said, **“Wherever the good news about Me is told in the world, people will hear about this woman.”**

Christ Connection: Mary did the right thing by pouring oil on Jesus. She worshiped Him. Jesus is most important, and He deserves to be worshiped. Jesus knew that He was going to die to rescue people from sin. He would be buried and then rise from the dead.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Anointed

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

MAIN POINT: Mary anointed Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Welcome and worship with song

- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- "One" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "What Makes Jesus Different" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "One."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- food
- party decorations
- "Jesus Was Anointed" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Set up a table for a "feast." Use either plastic food or real food and decorations that suggest a celebration.

SAY • What do you see displayed on this table? [*Invite responses.*] I have set up this table for a feast, or a celebration. Our Bible story today takes place during a time of feasting called Passover. Passover was the time God's people, the Jews, gathered to remember how God had saved them from the Egyptians.

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:6-13 or John 12:1-8.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Luke 4:18. Invite a volunteer to come up and open the Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Jesus came to earth to deliver the good news that all sinners can be saved through Him. Mary understood that Jesus was special and the most important. **Mary anointed Jesus.** To anoint someone means to pour oil or perfume on him to show he is being set apart for a special purpose. Mary worshiped Jesus. Sing the key passage song “The Spirit of the Lord” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why do believers share the Lord’s Supper?* A *believer* is a follower of Jesus, and the *Lord’s Supper* is a special meal followers of Jesus eat to remember that Jesus loves them and died on the cross for them. *Why do believers share the Lord’s Supper? Believers share the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ life and death.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Mary anointed Jesus** by pouring oil on Him. This was Mary’s way of worshiping Jesus. Jesus is most important, and He deserves to be worshiped. Jesus knew that He was going to die to rescue people from sin. He would be buried and then rise from the dead. Sing “One” and “Yahweh Is Good” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “His Name Is Jesus.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Jesus, thank You for showing us You are more important than anything we own. Even our most expensive things are worth less than You are, Jesus. Only You can make us truly happy, and only You deserve to be worshiped. Thank You for loving us and dying for us. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “One” song
• “Yahweh Is Good” song
• “His Name Is Jesus” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Anointed

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

MAIN POINT: Mary anointed Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

LOW PREP

- plastic jar
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song (optional)
- "One" song (optional)

Play a jar passing game

Remind preschoolers that *anoint* means to pour oil or perfume on someone to show they are being set apart for a special purpose. Play music while preschoolers pass a jar around as they sit in a circle. When the music stops, the preschooler holding the jar must say the main point.

SAY • Mary broke open her jar of oil and poured it on Jesus. **Mary anointed Jesus.** By pouring oil on Jesus, Mary got Jesus' body ready to be buried. Jesus was going to die to rescue people from sin. He would be buried and then rise from the dead.

Oil and water paintings

Place a small amount of water and oil in a shallow pan. Stir so droplets disperse among the water. Lightly place watercolor paper on the surface of the water and oil. Remove quickly and place on a baking sheet. Invite children to drop dyed water onto their papers using eyedroppers. Set aside to dry. Provide ziplock bags in case the artwork is not dry before parents arrive.

SAY • **Mary anointed Jesus** with her most expensive oil. Mary did this to show that Jesus was the most important and that He deserved to be worshiped.

- Allergy Alert download
- water
- shallow pan
- eyedroppers
- cooking oil
- spoon
- watercolor paper
- baking sheet
- cups
- food color
- gallon ziplock bags (optional)

Serve a meal

Bring out toy food and provide plates, cups, napkins, and cutlery if possible. Encourage the preschoolers to play out sharing a meal with each other.

SAY • Jesus and His friends went to a man named Simon's house to eat a meal during Passover. Mary poured her jar of expensive oil on Jesus' head and feet. **Mary anointed Jesus** to worship Him.

- toy food
- plastic dishes and cutlery

Explore shower gel in a bag

Place colored shower gel into several gallon ziplock bags. Seal the bags with duct tape. Invite the preschoolers to press on the shower gel and watch it move. Rub some shower gel on your hand so the children may smell it.

SAY • This shower gel smells good, doesn't it? **Mary anointed Jesus** with expensive oil that smelled nice too. This was Mary's way of worshiping Jesus, the one who died to rescue us from our sin.

- Allergy Alert download
- shower gel
- gallon ziplock bags
- duct tape

Pouring from pitchers

Provide a variety of cups and plastic pitchers for pouring water back and forth from two large plastic tubs. Keep towels handy for cleanup.

SAY • **Mary anointed Jesus** by pouring oil on His head and feet. One of Jesus' friends said, "She could have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor!" But Mary loved Jesus more than anything else, and she worshiped Him.

- cups
- plastic pitchers
- water
- large plastic tubs
- towels

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Anointed

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8

MAIN POINT: Mary anointed Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "One" song
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

1. What was Jesus doing at Simon's house? (*eating a meal*)
2. Who came to Simon's house with a jar of expensive oil? (*Mary*)
3. What did Mary do to Jesus? (**Mary anointed Jesus.**)
4. Who thought Mary had done a silly thing? (*Jesus' friends*)
5. What did Jesus say about Mary anointing Him? (*"She has done a very good thing for Me."*)
6. **Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?**
Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

SAY • **Mary anointed Jesus** with her most expensive oil. Mary worshiped Him. Jesus is most important, and He deserves to be worshiped. Jesus knew that He was going to die to rescue people from sin. He would be buried and then rise from the dead.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for showing us how important Jesus is. He is Your One and Only Son who came to earth to die and rise from the dead. He is more important than anything, and He deserves to be worshiped. Help us worship Jesus this week. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how all people need to know that Jesus is most important. You may also show the “The Best Summer Ever” video.

SAY • It was exciting to learn about Javier and Yaima, and how many children support the work they are doing in Cuba through prayer and giving. When you go home today, ask your parents if your family supports any missionaries. What are their names?

- “The Best Summer Ever” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

Give your best

Remind preschoolers that Mary loved Jesus so much that she wanted to give Him her best oil. Explain that when we love Jesus, we want to give Him our best. Ask preschoolers to do their best performance of the following actions.

- Do your best jumping.
- Do your best skipping.
- Do your best smiling.
- Do your best clapping.
- Do your best singing.
- Do your best dancing.

Jesus Cleansed the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?
Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 20



**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 22



**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
PAGE 24



Leader BIBLE STUDY

In preparation for the Passover feast, Jesus made His triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple there. Herod the Great completely rebuilt the temple in 20–18 B.C. as part of his architectural projects. The temple was surrounded by walls and gates, with specific places for Gentiles, women, and men to worship God and offer sacrifices. The temple was a symbol of God's presence among His people.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

When Jesus entered the Court of the Gentiles, He was furious to see people buying and selling in the temple. Animal sacrifices were required for participation in the temple. For many worshipers traveling from all over the Roman Empire to take part in Passover, it was easier to purchase unblemished animals for sacrificing in the Court of the Gentiles. There, they also exchanged foreign currency for the temple taxes and offerings. So why was Jesus angry at the people?

The merchants buying and selling in the temple were treating the temple as a market or bazaar, not like the house of prayer for all nations that God had intended for it to be. (See Isa. 56:7.) The money changers' prices were so exorbitant, they were practically robbing the people. (Mark 11:17) On top of that, people were using the temple courts as a shortcut to get to their businesses. The Gentiles who wished to worship God in peace were surrounded by greed and extortion.

Jesus threw out the merchants and money changers. He was committed to honoring God and did not believe the temple should be used as a marketplace. The chief priests and the scribes saw what happened, and they wanted to destroy Jesus. (Luke 19:47)

These events led up to Jesus' death and resurrection, and now we do not need to go to a temple to meet with God. Jesus came as God's presence among us (John 1:14) and to be the final sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. We gather with the church to worship Him together.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use sound effects:** Locate a sound effect for a busy marketplace and play it in the background as you tell the Bible story. Stop the sound effect when you get to the part where Jesus tells the people to leave.

- **Be interactive:** Lead preschoolers to shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” at the appropriate place in the Bible story.

Jesus Cleansed the Temple

Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

It was time for the Jewish people to celebrate Passover. Jesus, His friends, and many other people went to the city of Jerusalem. **Jesus and His disciples went to the temple.**

The temple was supposed to be a place where people went to worship God, but Jesus saw people doing things they were not supposed to do. Some people were buying and selling animals. Other people were trading money. The temple was not a store!

Jesus also saw people carrying things through the temple to get from one side of the city to the other. This was not what God wanted the temple to be used for. **How could people pray and worship God with all that noise?**

Jesus was right to be angry. He turned over the tables and knocked over the chairs of the people who were selling animals and trading money. He told all of those people to leave. “The Scriptures say, My house will be called a house of prayer for everyone. But you are making it a place for thieves!” He said.

Every day, Jesus went to the temple to teach people about God. People who were blind came to Jesus, and He healed them. People who could not walk came to Jesus, and He healed them too. **People were amazed at the things Jesus said and did. Children began shouting in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”** The word *hosanna* means “Save now!”

The religious leaders did not like what was happening. They did not like Jesus, and they did not like how everyone else liked Him. The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus.

“Do You hear what these children are saying?” they

asked Jesus.

“Yes,” Jesus said. “Have you never read the Scripture that says, ‘You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and babies?’”

Then Jesus left and went to the city of Bethany to spend the night.

Christ Connection: Jesus made the people in the temple leave. He was right to be angry. The people were keeping others from praying and worshiping God. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away people's sin so they could be friends with God.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Cleansed the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Welcome and worship with song

- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- "One" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "What Makes Jesus Different" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "One."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Jesus Cleansed the Temple" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Before children enter, turn over all chairs and tables in the room. Ask children what might have happened.

SAY • In our Bible story today, people were not using God's temple right. Jesus became angry, and He turned over the tables and knocked over the chairs. He wanted the people to use God's temple the right way.

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:12-17 or Mark 11:15-19. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Luke 4:18. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that God's Spirit was on

Jesus. He had good news to tell, but the people misusing the temple were keeping people from hearing the good news and worshipping God. Jesus made those people leave. Then He came back to the temple everyday to teach the good news about God. Sing the key passage song “The Spirit of the Lord” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question asks, *Why do believers share the Lord’s Supper? Believers share the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ life and death.* When followers of Jesus share the Lord’s Supper, they are remembering how Jesus died on the cross to take away people’s sin. We can be friends with God because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus stopped people from misusing God’s temple.** Jesus was right to be angry. The people were keeping others from praying and worshipping God. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away people’s sin so they could be friends with God.

Sing “One” and “He Will Save Us” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “His Name Is Jesus.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, Jesus, for coming to earth to make a way for all people to worship You. Thank You for bringing the good news that we can be friends with God through You. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- “One” song
- “He Will Save Us” song
- “His Name Is Jesus” song
- offering basket

Transition to experience the story

- countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Cleansed the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.



LOW PREP

• blocks

Build a temple

Guide preschoolers to use blocks to build a temple courtyard. Direct a handful of children to enter the temple and say, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Keep bringing more children inside until everyone has had a turn.

SAY • Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

Jesus would go to the temple every day to heal people and teach them about God. People were amazed, and children shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"



LOW PREP

• walking rope
(optional)

Visit your worship center

Lead preschoolers to your church's worship center. If worship is in progress, slip quietly in the back or watch from the door for a few minutes. Consider using a walking rope to make sure preschoolers stay together.

SAY • Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

We do not worship God in a temple, but we get to worship God with other believers at church.

Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away people's sin so they could be friends with God.



LOW PREP

• mobile device
(optional)

Guess animal sounds

Make various animal sounds and invite preschoolers to

guess the animal. Consider downloading a sound effects app or locating animal sounds online. Allow older preschoolers to take turns making animal sounds.

SAY • People were buying and selling animals at the temple.

The temple was not a store. **Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.** Jesus made the people in the temple leave. He was right to be angry.

The people were keeping others from praying and worshipping God.

Find and give offerings

Wrap a shoe box and shoe box lid separately in wrapping paper. Cut a slit through the center of lid. Hide plastic coins throughout the room. Then direct the children to go on a hunt to find them. Every time a child finds a coin, she puts it in the offering box.

- shoe box with lid
- wrapping paper
- tape
- plastic coins

SAY • The temple was meant to be a place where people could bring offerings to God. Instead people were using it as a place to make money. And they were making so much noise, it was hard to worship. **Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.**

Coin rubbings and matching

Show preschoolers how to create coin rubbings by taping a variety coins to the table, covering the coins with paper, and rubbing an unwrapped crayon over the paper. When a preschooler finishes his rubbings, encourage him to match his coins with the images on his paper.

- coins
- tape
- paper
- crayons

SAY • Some people at the temple cared more about money than they did about God. **Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.** Then He went to the temple to heal people and teach.

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Cleansed the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. How were people using the temple? (*buying and selling animals, trading money, using the temple as a shortcut*)
2. What did Jesus do when He saw this? (*turned over tables, knocked over chairs, made the people leave*)
3. What did Jesus stop the people from doing? (**Jesus stopped people from misusing God's temple.**)
4. What did Jesus do when He returned to the temple later on? (*taught about God; healed people*)
5. **Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?**
Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

SAY • Jesus saw many people treating the temple like a store. Jesus made them leave. Jesus was right to be angry. These people were keeping others from praying and worshiping God. Jesus wants all people to have a chance to worship God. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away people's sin.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "One" song
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Thank You, Jesus, for caring so much that we have a chance to know You and worship God the Father. You made a way for us to be friends with God, and You are the only One who can save us. Like those children long ago, we give You praise today.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Jesus wanted all people to be able to worship God. When we tell people who do not know about Jesus about Him, we are giving them a chance to worship Him and be friends with God. You may also show the "Cuba to the Nations" video.

SAY • Javier and Yaima care about all people knowing Jesus. They share the good news wherever God takes them! Let's pray that God would grow their ministry, that more people would hear about Jesus, believe in Him, and worship God.

- "Cuba to the Nations" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Guess emotions

Face away from the children. Turn around and express a different emotion and allow preschoolers to guess the emotion. Sample emotions include surprised, happy, sad, mad, confused, tired, sick, worried, excited, proud (arrogant), bored, shy, scared, sorry. Remind preschoolers that Jesus was right to be angry. **Jesus stopped people from misusing God's temple.**

The Last Supper

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

MAIN POINT: Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

3

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 30



**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 32



**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
PAGE 34



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus knew it was time for Him to die. He sat down with His disciples for the Passover meal and did something very unusual. Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This humble act was usually reserved for a servant. The footwashing symbolized a spiritual cleansing. The disciples were already positionally "clean" before God (see John 13:10) but even redeemed people still sin and need daily cleansing. (See 1 John 1:9.) In this, Jesus also set forth an example of love and humility for His disciples to mirror in their own actions

toward one another. (John 13:15)

As they ate the Passover meal, Jesus broke bread and gave it to His disciples. He shared the cup with them too, explaining that the bread and cup represented His body and blood. Jesus established a new covenant.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant—or promise—with His people. He gave them commandments to follow so they could live in right relationship with Him. But God's people broke the covenant. They didn't obey God, and they didn't love Him. By dying on the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover, a time when God's people remembered how God had rescued His people from the Egyptians—passing over the houses marked with the blood of a lamb. Jesus instituted a new memorial, to Himself—the Lamb of God whose blood would bring salvation to the world.

Believers take the Lord's Supper to remember what Jesus did for us in His death and resurrection. We remember God's faithfulness to rescue His people, and we look forward to the day He will return.

Few of the preschoolers you teach will be ready to take the Lord's Supper at church. Gently explain that the Lord's Supper, like baptism, is an ordinance of the church and is a celebration for those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation.



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3

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Draw the story:

Tell the story through the filter of “hands and feet.” Draw the listed storyboard images on large pieces of poster board or a dry erase board. One teacher will hold up the images as the other reads the Bible story script:

- the friends’ dirty feet
- Jesus’ hands washing His friends’ feet
- Jesus’ hands breaking the bread
- Jesus’ hands holding the cup
- Jesus and His friends lifting their hands in praise while they sing
- Wash feet: Tell the Bible story as you wash the children’s feet. Mimic Jesus’ actions as you tell the story. Stop at appropriate times to let Jesus’ words sink in to preschoolers’ minds.

The Last Supper

John 13:1-15; Matthew 26:26-30

Jesus’ friends went into the city to get the Passover meal ready. Then they **sat at the table with Jesus**. Jesus knew it was almost time to go back to His Father in heaven.

Jesus got up from the table. He poured water into a bowl and started washing His friends’ feet. What was Jesus doing? Only servants washed people’s feet. Jesus was a King! **Peter wanted Jesus to stop. “You will never wash my feet!” he said.**

Jesus answered, “If I don’t wash you, you do not belong to Me.”

“Don’t just wash my feet then,” Peter said. “Wash my hands and head too!” But Jesus said Peter didn’t need a whole bath. Peter was already clean in his heart because he believed in Jesus and God had forgiven his sins.

Jesus washed all of His friends’ feet and then He sat back down at the table. **“Do you know why I washed your feet?” He asked.**

Jesus taught His friends something important. **“I am your Teacher and Lord,” He said. “I want you to follow My example. Wash one another’s feet. Serve one another.”**

Jesus ate the Passover meal with His friends. While they ate, Jesus took the bread. He blessed and broke it, and gave it to the other men.

“Take this and eat it; this is like My body,” He said. Then Jesus took a cup and thanked God. He gave it to His friends and said, “Take a drink; this is like My blood.”

After the meal, Jesus and His friends sang songs and went to a mountain outside of the city.

Christ Connection: Jesus loved and helped His friends and taught them to love and help each other. Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do. Jesus is our King who died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Last Supper

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

MAIN POINT: Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Welcome and worship with song

- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- "One" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "What Makes Jesus Different" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "One."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- basin of warm water
- soap
- "The Last Supper" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite another leader or adult helper to the front of the room. Wash her feet with warm water and soap.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Jesus washed His friends' feet.

He did this to show that He is a God who serves others. After that, **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.** That special meal remind us of the greatest way Jesus served us: dying on the cross for our sins.

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Luke 4:18. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Jesus came to earth to preach the good news and serve. The greatest way Jesus served us was by dying on the cross and rising again. The Lord's Supper is a special meal that reminds us of what Jesus did. Sing the key passage song "The Spirit of the Lord" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Jesus took the bread and told His friends, "Take and eat it; this is My body." Then He took a cup and said, "All of you drink from it; this is My blood, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins." ***Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.*** The Lord's Supper helps us remember that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to take the punishment for our sin.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.** Jesus served His friends by washing their feet. Jesus taught His friends to love and help each other. Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do. Jesus is our King who died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

Sing "One" and "Yahweh Is Good" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "His Name Is Jesus." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for this reminder that Jesus came to serve. The greatest way Jesus served us was by dying for us. Thank You for the special meal called the Lord's Supper that reminds us of what Jesus did for us. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• "One" song
• "Yahweh Is Good" song
• "His Name Is Jesus" song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Last Supper

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

MAIN POINT: Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.



LOW PREP

Option: For fewer children, hide preschoolers' shoes around the room and invite them to search for their missing shoe.

Mix up shoes

Invite preschoolers to remove one shoe and place it in the center of the room. Mix up the shoes. Let children take turns searching the pile for their shoe. Assist any children who need help putting on their shoe.

SAY • Jesus' friends had to remove their sandals before He washed their feet. **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends** to remind them of His love.

Play a cup game

Set three identical cups upside down on a table. Slide a small object underneath one of the cups. Move the cups around on the surface of the table. After several moves, ask preschoolers to identify which cup the object is under.

SAY • **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.** During that meal, Jesus took a cup and told His friends to drink. When we drink from the cup during the Lord's Supper, we remember that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from our sin.

Search for an egg timer

Set an egg timer to 30 seconds. Hide the timer in the room while preschoolers close their eyes. Once hidden, invite

- cups, 3
- small item

- egg timer

children to search for the timer. The first child to find the egg timer before it goes off may hide it the next time.

SAY • Great job finding the timer before time ran out! Jesus knew it was almost time to go back to His Father in heaven. **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends** before He went to the cross.

Make muddy footprints

Help preschoolers remove one shoe and sock from their feet. One at a time, paint washable paint on preschoolers' exposed feet. Guide them to step on a piece of white construction paper to form a footprint. Wipe off their foot and help them put their sock and shoe back on. Write *Jesus washed His friends' feet. (John 13)* on each paper.

SAY • Jesus washed His friends' feet before **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends**. Jesus loved and helped His friends and taught them to love and help each other. Jesus loved and helped us by dying on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

- Allergy Alert download
- washable paint
- construction paper
- wet wipes
- marker

Give a doll a bath

Provide plastic dolls and a container with a small amount of damp soil. Allow children to put the dolls in the “mud” to make their feet dirty. Let preschoolers take turns washing dolls' feet in water. Provide towels to dry the feet.

SAY • In Bible times, people did not have cars. They walked everywhere, which meant their feet got really dirty. Jesus served His friends by washing their feet. Then **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends**.

- plastic dolls
- plastic bins, 2
- soil
- water
- soap
- towels

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Last Supper

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

MAIN POINT: Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Jesus do for His friends? (*washed their feet*)
2. Why did Jesus wash His friends' feet? (*to serve them, to set an example*)
3. What kind of meal did Jesus eat with His friends? (**Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.**)
4. What do the bread and cup remind us of? (*Jesus' body and blood; Jesus died on the cross for us.*)
5. **Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?**
Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

SAY • Jesus knew it was almost time for Him to die for sin. Jesus washed His friends' feet. Jesus loved and helped His friends and taught them to love and help each other. Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do. Jesus is our King who died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "One" song
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Jesus, thank You for showing us what it means to love and help others. Thank You that You came to earth to serve. The greatest way You served us was when You died on the cross. Thank You for the special meal called the Lord's Supper that reminds us of that.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how the best way we can love and help others is to tell them the good news about Jesus. You may also show the "Happy Work" video.

- "Happy Work" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

SAY • Miriam and her dad work hard at the Chorti Agricultural Development Center. They know training farmers is important work, but they know the most important work is sharing Jesus' love with these farmers. Let's pray for Miriam's family, that God would continue to bless their work among the Chorti people.

Mirror your partner

Form pairs. Choose one preschooler in each pair to be the leader. Her partner must copy her every move as if looking in a mirror. Switch roles, pairs, or both, and play again.

SAY • Jesus gave His friends an example to follow when He washed their feet. He told them to wash each other's feet like He washed theirs. Then **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.**

Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 40



**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 42



**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
PAGE 44



4

Leader BIBLE STUDY

The Pharisees and other Jews in Jerusalem did not like Jesus. He didn't play by their rules (Matt. 12:1-14), He claimed to be God (John 8:58-59; 10:22-33), and He extended salvation beyond the Jewish people (Luke 4:29). So they plotted several times how they might kill Him.

The events leading up to His death did not surprise Jesus. Each step was part of God's established plan. (See Is. 53:10; Acts 2:23.) But knowing God's plan didn't lessen Jesus' suffering as He was betrayed by His friends, arrested, falsely



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accused, and beaten. As you teach preschoolers about the arrest of Jesus, help them understand the gravity of the events.

First, Jesus wanted to do God's plan. Jesus came to earth to rescue people from sin. He was committed to doing the Father's will (Matt. 26:39,42) When Judas showed up with a crowd, Jesus didn't run. He didn't even allow Peter to stand in His defense. (Matt. 26:52) Jesus willingly gave Himself up for us because He loves us. (Eph. 5:2)

Second, Jesus was betrayed and arrested even though He did nothing wrong. The Jews tried to find a legitimate reason to kill Jesus, but they couldn't find one. (Matt. 26:59-60) Jesus did what we failed to do; He perfectly obeyed the law. His arrest was not just. The trial was not fair. But this had to happen. Only a sinless, perfect sacrifice could take away sin. (Heb. 9:11-14)

Finally, Jesus is who He says He is. After Jesus' arrest, the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. Jesus affirmed that He is. (Matt. 26:64) The high priest accused Him of blasphemy (speaking against God), but Jesus always told the truth.

Jesus felt the pain of betrayal and the agony of His imminent suffering and death. He came to do His Father's plan no matter what in order to bring salvation to the world.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use facial expressions:** Invite preschoolers to imagine that they were present when the Bible story took place. Pause at different intervals throughout the story and invite preschoolers to show you how they feel with their faces.
- **Go outside:** Lead preschoolers outside to a place that resembles a garden. Tell the Bible story there.

Jesus Was Arrested

Matthew 26:36–27:2

Jesus and His friends went to a garden to pray. Jesus told eight of His friends to stay at the garden gate. Three of the friends went into the garden with **Jesus**. Then He **told the friends, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”**

Jesus was very sad. **He fell facedown and prayed. “Father! If it is possible, do not let this happen. But I want to do Your plan.”**

Jesus went back to His friends, but they were sleeping. “Couldn’t you stay awake for one hour?” He asked Peter. Jesus left again to pray. He came back and His friends were sleeping again. **“Get up,” Jesus said. “It is almost time.”** Jesus knew it was time for Him to do God’s plan to rescue people from sin.

All of a sudden, Judas came into the garden. A large crowd was with him, and the people carried swords and clubs. **Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The people in the crowd grabbed Jesus to arrest Him.** Peter pulled out his sword to fight the crowd, but Jesus told him to stop. Then **Jesus said, “This is happening just like God said.”** Jesus’ friends all left, but **Peter stood back to watch what was happening.**

The crowd led Jesus away to the high priest. The religious leaders wanted to find a reason to kill Jesus, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. **The high priest asked Jesus, “Do You have anything to say? Are You the Messiah, God’s Son?”**

Jesus said, “Yes, that’s right.”

The high priest and the religious leaders did not want to believe that Jesus was telling the truth, so they **said He**

was lying. They said He deserved to die for telling lies about God.

As Peter watched, a servant came up to him. “Aren’t you one of Jesus’ friends?” he asked. But Peter said, “No! I’m not!” Two more times, people asked Peter if he was Jesus’ friend. Peter lied. “No!” he said. “I don’t even know Him!”

The next morning, the religious leaders made a plan to kill Jesus and took Him away to Pilate, the governor.

Christ Connection: Jesus knew God’s plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus’ friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father’s plan no matter what.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Welcome and worship with song

- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- "One" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "What Makes Jesus Different" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "One."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Jesus Was Arrested" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Ask preschoolers to share a time they got in trouble for doing something wrong. Share a time of your own.

SAY • Getting in trouble when you do something wrong makes sense, but getting in trouble when you have done nothing wrong does not make sense. In today's Bible story, **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** Listen to hear what happened.

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–27:2. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Luke 4:18. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Jesus came to earth to bring the good news: He would make the way back to God. He would do that by dying on the cross. Obeying God's plan was difficult, but Jesus obeyed anyway.

Sing the key passage song "The Spirit of the Lord" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Last time we learned that **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends**. Today's Bible story happened just after that special meal. Now believers eat the Lord's Supper together. ***Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.***

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.**

Jesus knew God's plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus' friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what.

Sing "One" and "He Will Save Us" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "His Name Is Jesus." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You that Jesus was willing to do Your plan no matter what. He came to die for sinners like me and the children in this room. Thank You for sending Him to do Your plan! Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- "One" song
- "He Will Save Us" song
- "His Name Is Jesus" song
- offering basket

Transition to experience the story

- countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.



LOW PREP

Gather and scatter

Lead children to squeeze in tightly beside you when you say “gather” and to move as far away as possible when you say “scatter.”

SAY • Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

Jesus' friends scattered, or ran away, after Jesus was arrested. Peter stayed close by, but when people asked Peter if he was Jesus' friend, Peter lied and said no. Jesus died so that people like Peter, and people like us, can be forgiven of our sins.



LOW PREP

- “One” song (optional)
- “The Spirit of the Lord” song (optional)

Play a sleeping game

Play music while preschoolers move around the room. Preschoolers must drop to the floor and pretend to be asleep when you stop the music. Children should stay “asleep” until the music starts again.

SAY • Jesus asked three of His friends to stay awake and pray, but they fell asleep. This was not the only time Jesus' friends mistreated Him. Judas turned away from Jesus. Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong. Then Peter lied and said He did not know Jesus. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.



Repeat actions three times

Say an action. Challenge preschoolers to perform the action three times while you count aloud. Suggestions include jumping jacks, push ups, claps, chicken flaps, and so forth.

SAY • In the garden, Jesus prayed three times, telling God He wanted to do His plan. Jesus is God's Son, and He always does what is right. **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** We are sinners who need Jesus to rescue us.

Examine clocks

Gather several clocks, such as a wall clock, alarm clock, analog, digital, and so forth. Encourage preschoolers to examine the clocks. Demonstrate how to adjust the time. Give a simple lesson on how to read a clock.

- various clocks

SAY • Clocks help us know what time it is, but Jesus did not need a clock to tell Him it was time for Him to do God's plan to rescue people from sin. **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what.

Make hand art

Trace each preschooler's hands on a sheet of paper. Write *Not My will* on the left hand and *Your will be done* on the right. Guide children to decorate their paper.

- paper
- markers
- crayons
- stickers

SAY • When Jesus prayed in the garden, He was very sad. He prayed. "Father! If it is possible, do not let this happen. But I want to do Your plan." **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** Jesus could have fought back, but He didn't. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what.

- countdown video (optional)

Transition to review the story

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Where did Jesus go to pray? (*a garden*)
2. Did Jesus' friends stay awake? (*No, they fell asleep.*)
3. Who brought people to the garden to arrest Jesus? (*Judas, one of Jesus' friends*)
4. Was Jesus arrested because He did something wrong? (*No, **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.***)
5. What did Jesus say when the high priest asked, "Are You God's Son?" (*He said, "Yes, that's right."*)
6. Did Peter admit that he was Jesus' friend? (*No, Peter said He did not know Jesus.*)

SAY • Jesus knew God's plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. He prayed three times telling God He would do His plan, even though it would be very hard. Jesus' friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. Jesus knew His friends needed to be rescued from their sin, just like we do. Jesus was ready to do God's plan.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "One" song
- "The Spirit of the Lord" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You that Jesus was willing to do Your plan even though it was hard. **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** He did not deserve to die. But Jesus died to save us from our sin, and we give Him praise for that today! Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Jesus was willing to give His very own life to save people from sin. This is good news everyone needs to hear. You may also show the "Bumpy Roads" video.

SAY • Let's pray for the White family and the people of Lagunetas. Let's pray that God would save many people in Lagunetas, and that the Whites would get the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus in many other Chorti villages.

- "Bumpy Roads" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Link paper clips chains

Show preschoolers how to link paper clips together and invite them form paper clips chains.

SAY • **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** Jesus could have run away after He was arrested, but He chose to stay with the people who were treating Him unfairly. Jesus wanted to do God's plan no matter what.

- large paper clips

Unit 26: Jesus the Savior

Unit Description:

Soon after Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He was betrayed, arrested, tried, and crucified. However, the darkest moment of the story became the brightest when Jesus rose from the dead to provide forgiveness for all of God's people.

Key Passage:

Ephesians 2:8

Big Picture Question:

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.



Unit 26: Jesus the Savior

Session 1:

Bible Story:

Jesus' Crucifixion

Bible Passage:

Matthew 27:11-66

Main Point:

Jesus died on the cross.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

Jesus' Resurrection

Bible Passage:

Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

Main Point:

Jesus is alive.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

The Emmaus Disciples

Bible Passage:

Luke 24:13-35

Main Point:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

1 Jesus' Crucifixion

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 27:11-66

MAIN POINT: Jesus died on the cross.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection are the center of the gospel. Jesus accomplished the plan God had been working out throughout the Old Testament to bring salvation to sinners, and it happened in such an unlikely way.

In the Book of Acts, Peter testified to the Israelites about Jesus' death: "Though He was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him" (Acts 2:23).



Crucifixion was a horrific way to die. As you teach preschoolers, rather than focus on the graphic details of how Jesus died, emphasize why He died. Two primary reasons stand out: God is loving, and God is just.

First, God is loving. He sent His Son to be the Savior of the world because He loves us. (See John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10.) Jesus submitted to the Father's will; He humbled Himself and came to earth as a man, and He laid down His life because He loves us. (Eph. 5:2)

Jesus lived the perfect life we failed to live and died the guilty death we don't want to die. Those who trust in Him receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Second, God is just. God's law for the people was plain. (See Deuteronomy 6:5.) But God's people, and all people, broke the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin. So why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't He just say, "You are forgiven"? Because God is just, He requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust.

Jesus was our substitute, taking our place on the cross and absorbing God's wrath on our behalf so we can be forgiven and declared righteous. (See Rom. 3:25-26; Col. 2:13-15.) Jesus died to release sinners from slavery to sin, and when we trust in Him, we are free indeed.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Act it out:** Select two volunteers to help you tell the story. Identify one as Barabbas and the other as Jesus. When telling the story stand behind or next to the volunteers, moving between the two and pointing to a child when referring to that volunteer.
- **Use props:** Show a crown of thorns, purple robe, and sign that says “KING OF THE JEWS,” as these Bible story elements are read.

Jesus' Crucifixion

Matthew 27:11-66

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate (PIGH luht), the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

“Yes,” Jesus said. Then the religious leaders lied and said that Jesus had done wrong things, but Jesus never did anything wrong. Pilate thought Jesus would say something about the religious leaders’ lies, but Jesus was quiet.

Every year at Passover, Pilate would let the people choose a prisoner to set free. One of the prisoners had done very bad things. His name was Barabbas (buh RAB uhs). So Pilate asked the crowd, “Who do you want me to set free? Barabbas or Jesus?”

The crowd shouted, “Barabbas!”

Pilate asked, “What should I do with Jesus?”

“Kill Him on a cross!” they said. “Crucify Him!”

Pilate’s soldiers took Jesus away. They made fun of Him because He said He was a King. The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head and a purple robe on His back. They pretended to bow down to Him. Then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. They put a sign above Jesus’ head that said: THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus.

The day turned dark. In the afternoon, Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You left Me all alone?” Then Jesus shouted and said, “It is finished!”

Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone

was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

Christ Connection: We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Rescuer. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died in our place. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Crucifixion

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 27:11-66

MAIN POINT: Jesus died on the cross.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Welcome and worship with song

- "Resurrected" song
- "The Reason That We Sing" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Resurrected" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "The Reason That We Sing."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Jesus' Crucifixion" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Tell preschoolers about the best gift you ever received. Invite preschoolers to share about gifts they have received.

SAY • As amazing as [*gift you shared about*] was, God gave me a gift that is far better than that one. He sent His very own Son to take the punishment for my sin, and now I get to spend forever with God! God wants to give you this gift too. Let me tell you about it.

Open your Bible to Matthew 27. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "Jesus Bookmark" printable
- Scissors
- "Saved By Grace Through Faith" song

Place the "Jesus Bookmark" at Ephesians 2:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Our key passage explains why **Jesus died on the**

cross. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died in our place. This was God's gift to us. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.

Sing the key passage song "Saved By Grace Through Faith" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why did Jesus die on the cross?* We learned that **Jesus died on the cross** for us. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him. *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.*

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus died on the cross.** We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Rescuer. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died in our place. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.

Sing "The Reason That We Sing" and "That's What Jesus Did" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "The Love of God." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, God, for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer—to die on the cross for our sin. Help us trust in Jesus so that our sins will be forgiven and we can live with You forever. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- "The Reason That We Sing" song
- "That's What Jesus Did" song
- "The Love of God" song
- offering basket
- countdown video (optional)

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Crucifixion

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 27:11-66

MAIN POINT: Jesus died on the cross.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.



Play “Whom will you set free?”

Form two teams. Direct teams to stand against opposite walls while team members hold hands. Lead one team to ask the other team, “Whom will you set free?” That team will select a child to run across the room and join hands with the other team. Play several rounds as time allows.

SAY • Pilate asked if he should set Barabbas or Jesus free.

The people chose to free Barabbas, even though he had done very bad things. Jesus never did anything wrong! **Jesus died on the cross** to rescue us from sin.

Make play dough crowns of thorns

- play dough
- round or flat-tipped toothpicks

Invite preschoolers to help you roll play dough into three long strands. Braid and bend the strands into a crown. Guide children to carefully stick toothpicks into the crown creating thorns. Provide preschoolers with their own play dough to make their own crown of thorns.

SAY • The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head before they nailed Him to a cross. We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Rescuer. **Jesus died on the cross.** On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead.

Color by number

Print a “Color by Number” sheet for each preschooler. Provide crayons or markers for children to color according to the instructions to reveal a cross on the gift box.

SAY • *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today. Jesus died on the cross* to rescue us from sin. We receive God’s gift of forgiveness and life forever when we turn from sin and trust in Jesus.

- “Color by Number” printables, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Experiment with darkness and light

Invite children to take turns sitting inside a tent or under a table with a sheet draped over it. Provide flashlights and dim the lights. Remind children that the day turned dark when Jesus was on the cross.

SAY • The day turned dark while Jesus was on the cross, even though it was the middle of the day. *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.*

- tent or dark-colored sheet
- flashlights

Paint crosses

Instruct preschoolers to draw a large white cross on a sheet of heavyweight paper using a white crayon. Draw an outline of a cross on the paper for those who need assistance to fill in. Guide children to paint over the entire paper with watercolor paint. Let the artwork dry.

SAY • **Jesus died on the cross** in our place. We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Rescuer. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.

- heavyweight paper
- white crayons
- cups of water
- watercolor paints
- paintbrushes
- painting smocks (optional)

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Crucifixion

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 27:11-66

MAIN POINT: Jesus died on the cross.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Reason That We Sing" song
- "Saved By Grace Through Faith" song

1. Did Jesus deserve to be arrested? (*No, Jesus never did anything wrong.*)
2. Who did the people choose to set free, Jesus or Barabbas? (*Barabbas*)
3. How did Jesus die? (**Jesus died on the cross.**)
4. Where did they put Jesus' body after he died? (*in a tomb*)
5. ***Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.***

SAY • We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Rescuer. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died in our place. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, You are so good to us. Thank You for sending

Jesus to die for us so we can be with You forever.
Thank You for loving us so much. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and discuss the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how important it is to tell others that **Jesus died on the cross** for us. You may also show the “Miracle Meals” video.

- “Miracle Meals” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

SAY • Have you ever seen people on the street who are asking for food or other help? Pastor Field is helping many people have food to eat and to learn about Jesus in New York City in the United States. We can be like Pastor Field by giving people food and telling them about Jesus.

Tell the good news

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Explain that you will select a child to whisper a detail of today’s Bible story to the child next to her. Children will whisper the “good news” all the way around the circle until the last child hears it. The last child will announce the good news to the group. If parts of the Bible story detail were altered along the way, correct any misunderstanding and invite children to cheer for the good news with you.

SAY • Today we learned that **Jesus died on the cross**. Although Jesus’ death was very sad, it was part of God’s plan to rescue us from sin. ***Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today!***

Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

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**EXPERIENCE
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**REVIEW
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews

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remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciples stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom. 6:5; 8:11.)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:7 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil. 2:9-10)

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use facial expressions:**
Ask children to listen carefully and think about each of the emotions experienced by Jesus' friends. Pause in the story at points of strong emotion and invite children to use facial expressions to display that emotion.
- **Act it out:** Invite children to actively participate in the Bible story by pantomiming the actions in the story, such as running in place, standing, and turning around. Practice each of the three actions prior to telling the story.

Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

On the third day after Jesus died on the cross, Jesus' friend Mary went to the tomb early in the morning. Mary saw that the big stone had been moved away from the entrance.

Mary ran to find Peter and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where His body is!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went inside the tomb and saw the cloths too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then John and Peter went home.

Mary stood outside the tomb and cried. She looked inside and saw two angels. "Why are you crying?" they asked.

"They've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they put Him," Mary said.

Then Mary turned and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Him. She thought the man was a gardener.

"Why are you crying?" Jesus asked. "Who are you looking for?"

Mary said, "Sir, if you have taken away Jesus, tell me where He is and I will go get Him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary turned around and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other friends that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the friends, "I have seen the Lord!"

While this happened, some of the soldiers who were guarding the tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders what happened. The leaders gave the soldiers money and told them to lie about what they saw. They told them to say that Jesus' friends stole His body while they were sleeping. So the soldiers took the money and told everyone that Jesus never rose from the dead.

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Welcome and worship with song

- "Resurrected" song
- "The Reason That We Sing" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Resurrected" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "The Reason That We Sing."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Jesus' Resurrection" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to show you their best surprised faces.

SAY • Have you ever had a happy surprise? [*Invite responses.*]
In today's Bible story, Jesus gives some of His friends a very happy surprise.

Open your Bible to Matthew 28 or John 20. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place the "Jesus Bookmark" at Ephesians 2:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Place five hula hoops on the floor. Print the phrases of the key passage on separate sheets of paper. Tape the words to the floor inside the hoops. Lead preschoolers to walk

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "Jesus Bookmark" printable
- scissors
- hula hoops, 5
- construction paper
- tape
- "Saved By Grace Through Faith" song

through the hoops while you read the verse. Repeat and jump from hoop to hoop. Play as time allows

SAY • Jesus is alive! When we trust that Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to rescue us from sin, God saves us and we have life with Him forever. This is God's gift to us!

Sing the key passage song together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.* If God had not raised Jesus from the dead, we would still be separated from God because of our sin. But God did raise Jesus and when we trust in Jesus, God gives us life in Him!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • Jesus is alive! Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.

Sing “The Reason That We Sing” and “Christ Died for Us” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “The Love of God.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, we praise You that **Jesus is alive.** We thank You for giving Your Son, Jesus, to die in our place that we can live with You forever. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “The Reason That We Sing” song
• “Christ Died for Us” song
• “The Love of God” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.



LOW PREP

Sing a “If You’re Happy and You Know It”

Sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It” adding the following verse.

“I am happy Jesus is alive today,
I am happy Jesus is alive today!
I am happy, and I know it
So I am really going to show it.
I am happy Jesus is alive today!”

SAY • Jesus is alive is the happiest news we will ever hear!
God forgives us for sin because Jesus died for us.
God raised Jesus from the dead to be King over everything. Jesus gives us life forever with Him.



LOW PREP

Freeze with fear

Encourage children to march back and forth across the room like soldiers. Instruct the children to freeze when you flash the lights to represent the angels appearing. Discuss how frightened the soldiers must have felt.

SAY • The soldiers were afraid. They even lied and told everyone that Jesus never rose from the dead. We do not have to be afraid like the soldiers. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him. We can be happy because **Jesus is alive.**

Draw with sunrise colors

Set out crayons in yellow, pink, light orange, and lilac. Provide a sheet of paper for each preschooler. Invite them to use the crayons to draw a sunrise. Write the main point on each preschooler's artwork with a black crayon.

- paper
- yellow, pink, light orange, lilac, and black crayons

SAY • Mary went to Jesus' tomb early in the morning before the sun came up. She discovered that the big stone had been moved away from the entrance. **Jesus is alive!** Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything.

Guess which items roll

Set up an inclined ramp and invite preschoolers to guess which items will and will not roll down the ramp. Use items such as a pencil, clothespin, ball, craft stick, crayon, wooden block, toy car, plastic plate, and plastic cup.

- flat surface to make an incline
- various items

SAY • Mary discovered that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of Jesus' tomb. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead. **Jesus is alive!** Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him when we trust in Him.

Play out telling the good news

Set out toy phones, toy computers, and keyboards. Invite preschooler to play out phoning, video calling, text messaging, or emailing friends to say, "**Jesus is alive!**"

- toy phones
- toy computers
- keyboards

SAY • There were no telephones or computers in Bible times. When Mary found out Jesus was alive, she ran to tell His other friends that she had seen Him. She was excited to tell them that **Jesus is alive!**

Transition to review the story

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Reason That We Sing" song
- "Saved By Grace Through Faith" song

1. Who went to Jesus' tomb early in the morning? (*Mary*)
2. Who did Mary run to tell that Jesus' body was not in the tomb? (*Peter and John*)
3. What did Peter and John find inside the tomb? (*the linen cloths that had been around Jesus' body*)
4. What did the angels tell Mary? (**Jesus is alive!**)
5. ***Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.***

SAY • Jesus' friends were so sad when He died on the cross. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to die in our

place. Help us put our trust in Jesus so we can live with You forever. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how God wants us to be like Mary and tell everyone that **Jesus is alive!** You may also show the "Edifying Edmonton" video.

- "Edifying Edmonton" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

SAY • Isn't that great to hear how three different pastors are working in Edmonton, Canada, to help people learn about Jesus? Many people right here in our city do not know Jesus. We can be like those pastors and tell people in our city that **Jesus is alive.**

Make "Jesus Is Alive!" postcards

Use a marker to write *Jesus Is Alive!* on an index card.

Guide preschoolers to decorate the card with markers or crayons and write their name on the back of the card. Allow preschoolers to make more than one postcard if they desire. Mail the cards to prospective class members or children who have missed your class. Consider sending the postcards home with preschoolers and encourage parents to mail the cards to their child's friends.

- unlined index cards
- markers or crayons

SAY • The best news we could ever tell someone is that **Jesus is alive!** We want everyone to hear the good news that *Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.*

The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:13-35

MAIN POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

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**TEACH
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**EXPERIENCE
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**REVIEW
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole

Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Him. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind preschoolers that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.



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3

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Pantomime it:** Choose three volunteers to portray the two disciples and Jesus. Guide the children to walk in place, sit down to eat together, and act out talking together as you read the Bible story.
- **Draw it out:** Draw images from the Bible story as you tell it or enlist an adult helper to do so. You may also consider drawing the images in advance, cutting them out, and then making your own flannel graph with adhesive hook-and-loop fasteners attached. Include in your picture two disciples and Jesus. Additionally, you can add the details of the road they are walking on, and a table they sat at and shared bread.

The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24:13-35

On the day Jesus rose from the dead, two of His friends were walking down the road to a village called Emmaus (eh MAY uhs). They were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came up and began walking with them. Jesus' friends did not know that the man was Jesus.

“What are you talking about?” Jesus asked.

The friends stopped walking. They looked sad. One of them said, “Are You the only person who doesn't know what has happened?”

The friends told Him about Jesus: Jesus had said and done many powerful things. The religious leaders had killed Him. **They had hoped Jesus was the Messiah God had promised to send.**

Of course, Jesus already knew everything they were telling Him. The friends explained that some of the women from their group went to Jesus' tomb but it was empty. They saw angels who told them Jesus is alive.

“Don't you believe what the prophets said?” Jesus asked. “They said this is what had to happen to the Messiah.” **Then, starting with the words Moses and all the prophets wrote long ago, Jesus helped His friends understand what God's Word taught about Himself.**

Jesus went to the village with the men and stayed with them. When they sat around a table to eat, Jesus took bread and thanked God for it. Then He broke the bread into pieces and gave it to them. Then the men knew! This was Jesus!

All of a sudden, Jesus disappeared. The friends said

to each other, “Didn’t we feel warm inside when He was talking with us on the road and explaining God’s Word to us?”

Jesus’ friends went home right away. They found the others who had followed Jesus and told them what had happened. Jesus is alive!

Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. All along, God had a plan to send His Son to rescue people from sin. No matter what part of the Bible we read, it all points to what Jesus did for us in His living, dying, and coming alive again.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:13-35

MAIN POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Resurrected” song
- “The Reason That We Sing” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Resurrected” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Reason That We Sing.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- pictures from a trip (optional)
- Bible
- “The Emmaus Disciples” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Tell a story about a time you took a trip. Consider bringing pictures of your trip to show to the children.

SAY • Have you ever taken a trip with your family? [*Invite responses.*] In our Bible story today, Jesus’ friends were going to Emmaus when something amazing happened. Listen carefully to hear what it was.

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Jesus Bookmark” printable
- Scissors
- “Saved by Grace Through Faith” song

Place the “Jesus Bookmark” at Ephesians 2:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers to say the key passage in different voices such as loud, soft, high, low and so forth.

SAY • Jesus' friends were so happy when they understood that Jesus was the Messiah that God had always promised to send. Our key passage reminds us that Jesus is God's gift to us for our salvation.

Sing the key passage song "Saved by Grace Through Faith" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.* God always had a plan to send Jesus to die for our sins. *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.*

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.**

He wanted His friends to understand that His death and resurrection were part of God's plan. The whole Bible is about Jesus. No matter what part of the Bible we read, it all points to what Jesus did for us in His living, dying, and coming alive again.

Sing "The Reason That We Sing" and "That's What Jesus Did" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "The Love of God." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, God, for always having a plan to save us through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us the Bible so we can learn about Your plan. Help us, God, to put our faith in Jesus so that we may live with You forever. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- "The Reason That We Sing" song
- "That's What Jesus Did" song
- "The Love of God" song
- offering basket

Transition to small groups

- countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:13-35

MAIN POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.



LOW PREP

- paper
- markers and crayons
- walking rope (optional)

Take a church walk

Lead preschoolers on a walk around the church to look for people who are talking about Jesus. Use a walking rope with younger children. Note people in other classes who are talking about Jesus. When you return to the room, invite children to draw pictures of things they saw on their walk.

SAY • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

One of the things we do at church is learn what the Bible says about Jesus. No matter what part of the Bible we read, it all points to what Jesus did for us in His living, dying, and coming alive again.



LOW PREP

- blindfold (optional)

Play “Who is it?”

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle with one child blindfolded in the center. Preschoolers who do not wish to be blindfolded may close their eyes. Choose a child to say, “Jesus.” The blindfolded child will guess who spoke. Play several rounds, choosing a new child to be the guesser each round.

SAY • Jesus’ friends did not recognize Him on their way to Emmaus. They did not know they were talking to Jesus until He prayed over dinner! Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

Follow a yarn maze

Create a maze by tying yarn throughout the classroom. Invite the preschoolers to follow the yarn to get through the maze. Use the maze to guide the children to a small treat such as stickers or a stamp pad and stamps.

- yarn
- stickers or stamp pad and stamps (optional)

SAY • Mazes are fun, but sometimes they can be confusing too. Jesus' death and resurrection was confusing for His friends. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Jesus' friends did not need to be confused; God had a plan to rescue His people.

Make an accordion book

Cut paper into 4-by-11-inch strips. Show preschoolers how to fanfold a strip into an accordion book with about four pages or folds. Preschoolers can use pencils and crayons to draw pictures of Jesus on each page between the folds.

- paper
- scissors
- pencils
- crayons

SAY • Your books are about Jesus. Did you know the whole Bible is about Jesus? The Bible is a big book that tells about God's plan to send His Son to rescue people from sin. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.**

Build roads

Guide preschoolers to make roads by laying craft sticks end to end. Suggest preschoolers use blocks to create buildings and towns.

- craft sticks
- blocks

SAY • Jesus' friends were walking down the road to the village of Emmaus and talking about everything that had happened when Jesus joined them. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Jesus helped them see that all along, God had a plan to send His Son to rescue people from sin.

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:13-35

MAIN POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
 - Bible Story Picture Poster
 - Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
 - Main Point Poster
 - Big Picture Question Poster
 - Key Passage Poster
 - "The Reason That We Sing" song
 - "Saved by Grace Through Faith" song
1. Where were Jesus' friends going? (*Emmaus*)
 2. Who joined them while they were walking? (*Jesus*)
 3. What did Jesus teach His friends? (**Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.**)
 4. When did Jesus' friends realize it was Him? (*when He prayed and broke the bread*)
 5. ***Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.***

SAY • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

He helped His friends understand God's big plan. From the very beginning, God had a plan to send His Son to rescue people from sin. The whole Bible is about Jesus. No matter what part of the Bible we read, it all points to what Jesus did for us in His living, dying, and coming alive again.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Thank You, God, for giving us the Bible so we can learn about Your plan to save Your people from sin through Jesus. Help us put our trust in Him so we can live with You forever. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how we can help others understand God's plan to save all people through Jesus. You may also show the "Tennessee to Toronto" video.

SAY • The Hess family is helping people learn about Jesus in Toronto, Canada. Let's pray for their family that many people in Toronto will come to know Jesus through their church.

- "Tennessee to Toronto" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Decide if something is true or untrue

Explain to the preschoolers that you will say true and untrue statements from recent Bible stories. Preschoolers should cheer for true statements but boo for untrue statements. Include outrageous statements like "I am a purple alligator" just for fun.

SAY • Jesus dying on the cross and coming back to life is true! It really happened! *Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, and He is alive today.*

Suggested true statements:

- Jesus never did anything wrong.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- Jesus is God's Son.
- God made Jesus alive again on the third day.
- Jesus' friends saw Him alive.

Unit 27: Jesus the Risen King

Unit Description:

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 more days proving that He is alive and preparing His followers to continue His mission after He returned to heaven to be with His Father.

Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 15:4

Big Picture Question:

What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



Unit 27: Jesus the Risen King

Session 1:

Bible Story:

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Bible Passage:

Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

Main Point:

Jesus appeared to His friends.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

Jesus and the Doubter

Bible Passage:

John 20:24-29

Main Point:

Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Jesus Forgives and Restores

Bible Passage:

John 21:1-19

Main Point:

Jesus forgave Peter.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Bible Passage:

Matthew 28:16-20

Main Point:

Jesus gave His friends a mission.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Bible Passage:

Acts 1:4-14

Main Point:

Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

A Song of Thanksgiving

Bible Passage:

Isaiah 12

Main Point:

We thank God because Jesus is alive.

1 Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

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**EXPERIENCE
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(25–30 MINUTES)
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**REVIEW
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Only a few days had passed since Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. His followers were undoubtedly afraid and confused. They met together in a house, locking the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Would the Jews do to them what they had done to Jesus? They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead?

But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Could it be true? The disciples were talking about these

things when Jesus stood among them. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

“Peace to you!” He said. What good news. Imagine how Jesus’ words might have calmed the disciples’ anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn’t show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Even though Jesus had foretold His death and resurrection (Matt. 20:17-19), Jesus showed His disciples physical proof that He was alive. He showed them His hands and His side. With His resurrection, Jesus’ mission was accomplished. He paid the debt for sinners, and the transaction cleared. But the disciples’ work was just beginning.

Jesus gave His followers a job to do: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospel of John’s version of the Great Commission. Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done—to the world.

Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that Jesus is alive today. We haven’t seen Him for ourselves, but we believe this by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.



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1

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Use an alternate

location: Before the session, locate another room in which to tell the Bible story. Make sure the room is free of safety hazards. As you transition to the “Tell the Story” portion of the session, lead preschoolers to the room. Explain how Jesus’ friends were hiding together in a house with the doors locked. As you tell the Bible story, invite preschoolers to huddle together as they might if they were scared.

• Use emotions:

Tell the story. Pause from time to time and ask preschoolers to show you with their faces and bodies how they would feel if they had been there with Jesus’ friends. Would they feel afraid? Amazed? Happy? Joyful? Determined?

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

On the first day of the week, in the evening, **Jesus’ friends met together in a house. They locked the doors because they were afraid.** They didn’t want to be killed too. But now **some of the friends were saying they had seen Jesus alive. Could it be true?**

As the friends talked, Jesus came and stood right there with them. “Peace to you!” He said.

Jesus’ friends were afraid! Was this really Jesus? Maybe they were seeing a ghost.

“Why are you afraid? It’s Me!” Jesus said. “Look at Me. Touch Me. A ghost does not have skin and bones, but I do. I am not a ghost.”

Jesus showed them His hands and His side. They saw **where Jesus had been hurt.** Now Jesus was alive! What good news! **The friends laughed and danced and sang songs because they were so happy to see Jesus!**

Jesus’ friends gave Jesus some fish to eat. **Jesus** talked to them and **explained the Bible to them. “The Bible is about Me,” Jesus said. Then Jesus told them that they had a job to do.** Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. Jesus’ friends needed to tell other people to turn away from sin and be forgiven.

“Peace to you!” Jesus said again. “God sent Me to earth. Now, I am sending you.” Then Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Jesus sent out His friends to tell all the people that He is alive.

Christ Connection: God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this good news!

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- noisemaker or megaphone
- “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Blow a noisemaker or speak into a megaphone to gather preschoolers to the Bible story area.

SAY • I have some wonderful news to tell you. Jesus is alive! He died on a cross and was buried, but He didn’t stay dead. God made Jesus alive again! Today we will hear what happened when Jesus’ friends heard the news. Do you think they believed it? Let’s listen to hear what the Bible says.

Open your Bible to Luke 24 or John 20. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “He Was Raised” song

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • When the Bible says that Jesus was “raised on the third day,” that tells us how long His body was in the tomb. Jesus helped His friends understand that after He had died, on the third day God made Jesus alive again. God made this promise in the Old Testament. Sing the key passage song “He Was Raised” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Have you ever had an important job to do? Sometimes when you think a job is almost finished, you find that there is still even more work to do. Important jobs like that can sometimes be called a “mission.” Someone’s mission is their very important work to do. Did you know God gives us a mission? ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • God made Jesus alive again! **Jesus appeared to His friends** and helped them understand that. Jesus visited many other people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today.

Sing “The Glory” and “Wherever You Go” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Thank You for Everything.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, God, for making Jesus alive again. Help us turn from our sin and follow You. Give us grace to do Your mission and tell others the great news of Jesus. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “The Glory” song
• “Wherever You Go” song
• “Thank You for Everything” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



LOW PREP

- “The Glory” song (optional)
- “He Was Raised” song (optional)
- scarves (optional)

Celebrate with music

Invite preschoolers to move to music. Play worship music on a CD player or other device. Encourage children to dance and sing. Suggest boys and girls march around the room, wave arms, tap toes, or wave scarves to a steady beat.

SAY • When **Jesus appeared to His friends**, they understood the good news that He was alive. Jesus’ friends were so happy to see Him that they may have laughed and danced and sang songs to celebrate.

Listen with a stethoscope

Guide preschoolers to take turns listening to each other’s heartbeats. Wash the ear pieces with alcohol wipes between each child’s turn. Show boys and girls how to place their hands over their chest to feel their own heartbeat. Explain that you can hear the heartbeat of a person who is alive.

SAY • God made Jesus alive again! His heart was beating when **Jesus appeared to His friends**. They could see that Jesus had come back to life. Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this good news!

Make play dough handprints

Invite preschoolers to work with play dough. Show a child how to flatten the dough and press his hand in it to leave an impression. Tell portions of today's Bible story as boys and girls work.

- play dough
- rolling pins (optional)

SAY • **Jesus appeared to His friends** and showed them His hands and His side. The friends saw where Jesus had been hurt when He died on the cross to rescue us from sin. Jesus' friends believed that He was alive.

Prepare for a guest

Encourage boys and girls to make the room ready for a guest. Provide dusters, clean washcloths, and other safe cleaning supplies. Allow preschoolers to set a table and prepare a meal for a friend.

- dusters
- clean washcloths
- safe cleaning supplies
- toy dishes
- toy food

SAY • At first, Jesus' friends were afraid when they saw Him. The friends thought He was a ghost! After **Jesus appeared to His friends**, they worshiped Him, gave Jesus something to eat, and listened to Him. They believed God had made Jesus alive again.

Make Jesus' name appear

Print the name JESUS on paper in pink, red, or orange marker. Invite preschoolers to make the name Jesus appear and disappear by covering His name with red cellophane.

- paper
- pink, red, or orange markers
- red cellophane

SAY • We made Jesus' name appear, but **Jesus Himself appeared to His friends**. God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. We can tell others this good news!

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to His friends.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Where were Jesus' friends hiding? (*in a locked room*)
2. Who suddenly appeared? (**Jesus appeared to His friends.**)
3. Who did they think Jesus was at first? (*a ghost*)
4. What did Jesus do to help the friends know He was not a ghost? (*Jesus showed His friends the hurt places on His hands and side. He also ate fish with the friends.*)
5. How did Jesus' friends feel? (*They were so happy they rejoiced.*)
6. **What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.**

SAY • What a wonderful story! God made Jesus alive again! Jesus is still alive today! Just like His friends told others about Him, Jesus wants us to tell others this good news!

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

SAY • God, thank You for making Jesus alive again. In the same way Jesus helped His friends tell others, please help us tell this good news to other people so everyone can know that Jesus is still alive today. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about ways people can tell everyone around the world the good news that Jesus is alive. You may also show the “Missionary Jobs” video.

SAY • People who tell other people about Jesus are called missionaries. Many missionaries travel around the world and learn to speak other languages to talk to people. When we tell others about Jesus, we are missionaries too.

- “Missionary Jobs” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

Play “All Around the World”

Ask preschoolers to say the name of different places around the world. If possible, provide a globe and maps (you may also use an electronic device). Point to various places around the world and describe characteristics unique to it (continent, landforms, country, languages spoken, foods, social customs).

SAY • When **Jesus appeared to His friends**, He told them to tell everyone about Him. People in every part of the world need to hear the good news that Jesus is alive. Who are some people we can tell that Jesus is alive? ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

- globe or map (optional)

Jesus and the Doubter

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 20:24-29

MAIN POINT: Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

2 **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

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**REVIEW
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' followers had seen Jesus alive! Two disciples met Jesus as they were walking to Emmaus, and then Jesus appeared to a group of His disciples as they met together in a locked room. But one of the disciples, Thomas, had missed out. He wasn't there when Jesus appeared. He hadn't seen Jesus for himself.

So despite his friends' claims that the Lord was risen, Thomas doubted. In fact, he refused to believe.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

2

(John 20:25) Witnesses testified that they had seen Jesus, but Thomas wanted physical evidence. He lacked faith and was stubborn in his unbelief.

More than a week passed, and Thomas was with the other disciples in a room. Again, the doors were locked for their safety. Much like before, Jesus appeared before the disciples and said, “Peace be with you.”

This time, Thomas was there. Jesus told Thomas to believe. He urged him not only to look, but to feel Jesus’ wounds for himself. Here, Jesus gave grace to Thomas. He gave Thomas the physical proof he was looking for. Jesus was no ghost; Jesus was alive!

Thomas immediately believed, and Jesus said, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed” (John 20:29) The Bible says that God is pleased when we have faith. (Heb. 11:6)

As you teach preschoolers, explain the meaning of the word faith: “the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen” (Heb. 11:1). Faith is believing without seeing. It is trusting that God is who He says He is, and He will do what He says He will do. (See Num. 23:19.) Faith cannot be mustered up on your own; it is a gift from God. (Eph. 2:8-9) Pray that God would grant children faith to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus and the Doubter

John 20:24-29

• **Make it active:**

While telling the Bible story, demonstrate body movements at specific times. Cross hands over chest and shake your head when you say *doubt*. Point to your eyes when you say *see* or *look*. Hold up both hands whenever you say *hands*. Encourage children to do the actions with you.

• **Play out the**

story: Invite one child to be Thomas and another to be Jesus. Mention that at the beginning of the story, Jesus was not with the friends. As the story unfolds, encourage the friends to try to convince Thomas that they had seen Jesus alive. Invite Jesus to join the group. Continue acting out the remainder of the story.

Many of Jesus' friends had seen Jesus—He was alive! Jesus died on the cross, but then He rose from the dead. One of Jesus' friends, Thomas, doubted it. He was not with the other friends when Jesus visited them.

"It's true! We saw Jesus!" the friends said. But Thomas wanted to see Jesus himself. "I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!" Thomas said.

Eight days later, the friends were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in and stood with them. "Peace to you!" Jesus said.

Then Jesus told Thomas, "Touch the marks on My hands and My side. I am alive! Believe it!"

Thomas did believe. "My Lord and my God!" he said. Jesus said, "You believed because you saw Me. Those who believe in Me without seeing Me are blessed."

Christ Connection: Thomas saw Jesus for himself. He saw that Jesus was alive. He saw the marks on Jesus' body where He was put on a cross. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus and the Doubter

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 20:24-29

MAIN POINT: Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Jesus and the Doubter” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to touch their hands and their sides.

SAY • Remember that **Jesus appeared to His friends** and showed them His hands and side where He had been hurt. One of Jesus’ friends named Thomas was not with the friends when Jesus appeared. He did not believe that Jesus was alive. Listen to hear what happened to make Thomas believe.

Open your Bible to John 20. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “He Was Raised” song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • This key passage tells us that God told people in the

Old Testament that Jesus would die on the cross and come back to life. Touch the verse in the Bible with your finger. Thomas wanted to touch the hurt places on Jesus' hands and side before he believed what God's words said about Jesus.

Sing the key passage song "He Was Raised" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • My Bible helps me know more about Jesus. When I know more about Jesus, I can tell other people more about Him too. God gave us an important job to do. That's our big picture question! ***What is our mission?*** Our big picture answer is, ***Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • When **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas**, Thomas did believe. He saw Jesus for himself. Thomas saw that Jesus was alive. He saw the marks on Jesus' body where He was put on a cross. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.

Sing "The Glory" and "Everywhere I Go" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Thank You for Everything." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for the story of Thomas. Help us believe in Jesus even when we cannot see Him. Thank You for blessing us when we believe. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• "The Glory" song
• "Everywhere I Go" song
• "Thank You for Everything" song
• offering basket

• countdown video (optional)

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus and the Doubter

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 20:24-29

MAIN POINT: Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



LOW PREP

Move hands and sides

Gather preschoolers. Invite boys and girls to copy you as you move your hands and sides. Clap hands, raise them high, or wave to a friend. Show how to bend at the waist. Change movements often. Ask preschoolers to take turns leading the group.

SAY • Jesus' friends told Thomas that Jesus is alive, but Thomas did not believe them. Thomas doubted. Thomas wanted to see the hurt places on Jesus' hands and side before he would believe. **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.** Jesus said people who believe in Him without seeing Him are blessed.

Discover a hidden message

- heavyweight white paper, 1 per child
- white crayon
- watercolor paint
- paintbrushes
- cups of water
- painting smocks (optional)

Print the words *Tell others about Jesus* on white paper with a white crayon. Display the materials on a flat surface. Invite preschoolers to paint with watercolors over the white paper to reveal the message. Read the message to preschoolers.

SAY • Our big picture question is, ***What is our mission?***

Your painting shows the answer to that question.

Our mission is to tell others about Jesus. Jesus' friends told Thomas that Jesus was alive, but Thomas did not believe until He saw Jesus himself.

Create shadows

Shine a flashlight against a blank wall. Show a child how to move his fingers in front of the beam of light to make shadows and shapes on the wall. Show how to make simple animals, and then demonstrate a how to extend fingers and curl a thumb to form the letter *J*.

- flashlight

SAY • *J* is the first letter in the name *Jesus*. Jesus gave each of us a mission, an important job to do. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

Play “Can You Believe It?”

Tape a sheet of green paper to a wall and a sheet of red paper to an opposite wall. Ask a variety of yes-or-no questions to the group. If a child believes that the answer to a question is yes, she will move to the green paper. If the answer is no, she will move to the red paper. Sample questions are: Do you like to eat green beans? Have you ever been to the moon? Did Thomas believe his friends when they told him that Jesus was alive?

- tape
- green paper
- red paper

SAY • After **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas**, did Thomas believe? (*yes*) Do we see Jesus today? (*no*) Do we believe Jesus is alive? (*yes*) We believe Jesus is alive because we can trust God’s words in the Bible.

Feel hidden items

Gather items from around the room and place them into a pillowcase. Invite preschoolers to take turns reaching into the bag without looking, feel an item, and identify it.

- classroom items
- pillowcase

SAY • Thomas told his friends he would not believe without seeing and touching Jesus. Later, **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas**. Jesus wanted Thomas to believe He is alive.

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus and the Doubter

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 20:24-29

MAIN POINT: Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Jesus' friends already know about Jesus? (*Jesus is alive!*)
2. What did Thomas tell his friends after they told him that Jesus was alive? (*Thomas would not believe unless he saw and touched Jesus' hands and side.*)
3. What did Jesus do for Thomas? (**Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.**)
4. What did Jesus tell Thomas about seeing Him? (*People who believe in Jesus without seeing Him are blessed.*)
5. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

SAY • Thomas doubted his friends when they said Jesus was alive and they had seen Him. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself. Jesus showed Thomas the hurt places on His body where He had been put on a cross. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Even though we have not seen Jesus, when we believe God's words that Jesus is alive, we are blessed.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for showing love to Thomas when he didn't believe at first. Thank You that we can learn from Thomas and believe in Jesus, even though we haven't seen Him. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is participating in a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how people around the world need to hear and believe that Jesus is alive. You may also show the "The Cities Need the Gospel" video.

SAY • The Reece family lives in a city called Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Let's remember to pray for them as they do their mission and tell others about Jesus.

- "The Cities Need the Gospel" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Trace hands

Invite a preschooler to lay her hand with fingers splayed on a sheet of paper. Use a marker or crayon to trace the child's hand. Invite preschoolers to practice tracing each other's hands with crayons.

SAY • **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.** Jesus wanted Thomas to believe He is alive, but Jesus told Thomas people who believe in Jesus without seeing Him are blessed. We believe Jesus is alive because the Bible says He is alive. The Bible is God's true words.

- paper
- crayons

Jesus Forgives and Restores

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 21:1-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus forgave Peter.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

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**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
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**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
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**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

After Jesus' resurrection and His appearance to the disciples, seven of the disciples returned to Galilee, near the Sea of Galilee where Jesus had called four of His disciples to be fishers of men. (See Luke 5:1-11.) Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the son of Zebedee, and two other disciples went fishing. Perhaps they felt it reasonable to return to the fishing business since their stint as disciples was apparently over—or so they thought!

In Bible times, nighttime was the preferred time for fishing. Fish caught at night could be sold fresh in the morning at market. But by daybreak, the disciples had caught nothing. Jesus stood at the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Him. He called to them, “Men, you don’t have any fish, do you?” (John 21:5). Then He urged them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. They obeyed, and they were unable to haul in the big catch!

John, the disciple Jesus loved, knew right away who He was. “It is the Lord!” John exclaimed. Peter immediately tied his outer garment around him and jumped into the sea, swimming 300 feet to shore. When the other six disciples arrived in the boat, they found Jesus sitting beside a charcoal fire with fish and bread. “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus said. Jesus ate with His disciples; then He turned to Peter.

John 21:15-19 describes Peter’s restoration. The disciple who had told Jesus that he would die for Him (Luke 22:31-34) had denied Jesus three times. (Luke 22:54-62) Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Jesus. Each time Peter responded yes, Jesus told Peter to feed His lambs. Jesus restored Peter to ministry.

Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that Jesus’ plan for the disciples did not end with His death and resurrection. When Jesus first called the disciples to follow Him, Jesus had promised to make them fishers of men. Instead of catching fish, they would tell people about Jesus. (Luke 5:1-11) The disciples had left Jesus when He was arrested, but Jesus still wanted to use them in God’s plan to rescue people from their sin. Jesus is a Lord who forgives us and makes things right again.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

3

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Forgives and Restores

John 21:1-19

- **Picture the story:** Hang a large easel pad. Tell the Bible story. Tell it a second time and pause at various points throughout the story. Draw a picture to represent a Bible story word for preschoolers to guess.
- **Dress up:** Dress like a fisherman while you tell the story. Wear waders, fishing vest, and a hat. Carry a tackle box and fishing pole. Show the Bible and tell the true story about a fisherman who knew Jesus.

Amazing things happened after Jesus died and came back to life. Jesus' friends had seen Jesus with their own eyes! Then the friends left Jerusalem and went back to Galilee.

Jesus' friends were together at the sea. Peter said, "I'm going fishing." The other friends decided to go too. Many of the friends were good fishermen. They knew the best time to fish was at night. So **the friends** got into the boat and **fished all night, but they did not catch any fish. Not even one!**

The next morning the sun was rising, and the friends could see a man on the seashore. The man called out to them, "You don't have any fish, do you?"

"No," they said.

"Put your fishing net into the water on the right side of the boat. Then you will catch some fish," the man said.

The friends did what the man said, and they did catch fish! They caught a lot of fish—so many that they could not even get the net back in the boat because it was so heavy.

"It is the Lord!" John shouted. It was Jesus! Peter could not wait to see Jesus. He jumped into the sea and swam to shore.

The other friends came along in the boat behind him, dragging the net full of fish. They saw there was fish cooking on a fire and bread to eat. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you caught." Peter pulled the heavy net up to the shore.

"Come and have breakfast," Jesus said. Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and then gave them the fish.

No one asked Jesus who He was because they all knew it was their friend who had risen from the dead!

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me more than My other friends?”

“Yes, Lord. You know that I love You,” Peter said.

“Feed My lambs,” Jesus said.

Jesus asked Peter again, “Simon Peter, do you love Me?”

“Yes, Lord. You know that I love You,” Peter answered.

“Watch over My sheep,” Jesus said.

Jesus asked Peter one more time, “Do you love Me?”

Peter was sad that Jesus had asked him again. He said, “Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.”

“Feed My sheep,” Jesus said. Then Jesus said, “Follow Me!”

Christ Connection: When Jesus was arrested, His friends ran away. Jesus showed His friends that He still loved them and wanted them to follow Him. Sometimes we make mistakes as we follow Jesus too. Jesus rescued us from sin. We know He forgives us and wants us to keep following Him.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Forgives and Restores

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 21:1-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus forgave Peter.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Jesus Forgives and Restores” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to stand up. Then ask children to sit down if they have ever been fishing, owned a fish, seen a fish at the zoo, or eaten fish. Continue asking questions pertaining to fish until everyone is seated.

SAY • After Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, Peter decided to go fishing. Jesus had other plans for Peter and His friends.

Open your Bible to John 21. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- construction paper
- scissors
- Key Passage Poster
- “He Was Raised” song

Cut out a fish shape from construction paper and place it at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Ask boys and girls to repeat the key passage a few times.

SAY • Peter and Jesus' other friends weren't sure what Jesus wanted them to do now that He had come back to life after dying on the cross. Jesus wanted His friends to tell people that He is alive. That is the good news! Sing the key passage song "He Was Raised" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Peter made some mistakes, but Jesus forgave him. Peter knew that God would help him tell many people about Jesus. Jesus forgives us, too, and helps us do what He says. *What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • When Jesus was arrested, His friends ran away. Peter made some bad choices and was sorry. Jesus showed His friends that He still loved them and wanted them to follow Him. **Jesus forgave Peter.** Sometimes we make mistakes as we follow Jesus too. Jesus rescued us from sin. We know He forgives us and wants us to keep following Him.

Sing "The Glory" and "Wherever You Go" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Thank You for Everything." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, God, for loving us even when we make mistakes. Help us talk to You when we make wrong choices and ask You to forgive us. Thank You that Jesus rescues us from sin. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "Wherever You Go" song
- "Thank You for Everything" song
- offering basket

- countdown video (optional)

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Forgives and Restores

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 21:1-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus forgave Peter.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



LOW PREP

- tape
- blocks

Build a boat

Tape an outline of a boat onto the floor. Guide preschoolers to line up blocks along the tape to build a boat. Invite boys and girls to take turns sitting in the boat. Pretend to fish and play out the story.

SAY • Jesus' friends sat in a boat and fished all night, but they didn't catch any fish until Jesus called out to them from the shore. Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to see Jesus. **Jesus forgave Peter** for saying he was not Jesus' friend. Jesus forgives us, too, when we ask Him.

Explore water

- small tub of water
- towels
- measuring scoops
- plastic cups
- small plastic pitchers
- floating toys

Place the materials on a flat surface with towels nearby. Invite boys and girls to scoop, measure, and pour water. Talk about the Bible story as preschoolers work.

SAY • When Peter recognized Jesus on the shore, he jumped into the water and swam to see Him. **Jesus forgave Peter** for saying he was not Jesus' friend. Jesus loved Peter, even after he made mistakes. Jesus gave Peter a job to do. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

Make sea art

Invite preschoolers to stick fish-shaped stickers to a heavyweight sheet of paper. Place the paper in a shirt box. Squeeze blue, green, and white washable paint on the paper. Put a marble in the box, cover it, and invite preschoolers to shake the box. Remove the artwork and let it dry.

SAY • Jesus' friends were fishing in the sea when they saw Jesus on the seashore. Peter jumped in the water and swam to shore because He was so happy to see Jesus. **Jesus forgave Peter** and gave him a job to do.

- heavyweight paper
- fish-shaped stickers
- shirt box
- blue, green, and white washable paint
- marble

Match fish shapes

Print the "Fish Shapes" printable onto heavyweight colored paper and cut out the shapes. Then cut each fish into two pieces. Mix up the pieces and invite preschoolers to match the pieces. Allow older preschoolers to use blunt-tipped scissors to cut out fish and make their own puzzles. Provide ziplock bags for children to take their puzzles home.

SAY • Peter was a fisherman before he met Jesus. Peter had been one of Jesus' closest friends, but Peter messed up and said he didn't even know Jesus. But **Jesus forgave Peter** and gave him a job to do! *What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*

- "Fish Shapes" printable
- colored heavyweight paper
- blunt-tipped scissors
- ziplock bags

Herd sheep

Spread cotton balls around the room. Tell preschoolers to pretend the cotton balls are sheep and herd them into the basket. Spread the cotton balls and play again.

SAY • Jesus told Peter to care for His sheep. Jesus was talking about people who follow Him. Jesus still loved Peter even though Peter made mistakes. **Jesus forgave Peter** and gave him a job to do.

- cotton balls
- basket

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Forgives and Restores

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 21:1-19

MAIN POINT: Jesus forgave Peter.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Before Jesus' friends saw Him on the shore, how many fish had they caught? (*none*)
2. What happened to their fishing nets after Jesus told them what to do? (*The net filled up with fish—so many fish that the men couldn't carry them all.*)
3. What did Peter do after John said it was Jesus? (*Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to shore.*)
4. What did Jesus ask Peter? (*"Do you love Me?"*)
5. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

SAY • Jesus wanted His friends to know that even though they made mistakes, Jesus forgave them. Jesus **forgave Peter** and helped him understand that he could still do what God wanted. Jesus rescues us from our sin too. He forgives us and wants us to keep on following Him.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

SAY • God, thank You for rescuing us from sin even when we disobey You. Help us to do Your work and tell others about Jesus. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is participating in a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Jesus' friends told everyone about Jesus, and we can too. You may also show the "Goals, God, and Good Times" video.

SAY • Brazil is the largest country in South America. The boys and girls in Brazil are a lot like you and your friends. They like to play soccer. Some American students are using soccer to tell people in Brazil about Jesus. How can you tell people in your neighborhood about Jesus when you play sports, games, or hang out with your friends?

- "Goals, God, and Good Times" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Play out the Bible story

Retell the Bible story to the preschoolers. Invite them to act it out as you tell it. Boys and girls might sit in a boat, notice Jesus, swim to shore, haul in a heavy net, cook, and eat fish.

SAY • Remember, **Jesus forgave Peter** and His friends. Then He gave them a job to do. Jesus wants to forgive us too. When we trust Jesus, He gives us a job to do too. ***What is our mission? Our missions is to tell others about Jesus.***

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:16-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus gave His friends a mission.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
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**EXPERIENCE
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**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
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4

Leader BIBLE STUDY

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a 40-day period. At one point, He appeared to more than 500 people. During that time, Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) Some disciples wondered if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom of Israel. (Acts 1:6)

Jesus had a different plan for the disciples. He directed the Eleven to go to a mountain, where He appeared to them again. They worshiped Him, but some still doubted. (Matt. 28:17) On the mountain, Jesus gave His disciples



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the Great Commission. First, Jesus stated that all authority had been given to Him. Before the resurrection, Jesus had authority as God the Son. Through the resurrection, however, the Father gave Jesus far more than even Satan had promised. (Matt. 4:8-9) Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God subjected everything to His beloved Son. (See Heb. 2:5-9.)

Because of Jesus' authority, He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel, the good news about Him. The Great Commission is not just for missionaries far from home. All believers are called to share the gospel with others, teach them to obey God's commands, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus finished His commission with a profound promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

Talk to the preschoolers you teach about the importance of living out the Great Commission. Because Jesus has authority over all places and all people at all times, we can take the good news about Jesus to all places and all people at all times. God has given us a mission and gives us power through the Holy Spirit to obey this calling.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

• **Tell the story outdoors:** Weather permitting, tell the Bible story outside. Take boys and girls to the top of a hill, or pretend to climb a mountain. Gather preschoolers around you and mention that Jesus gave His helpers a mission while they were sitting around Him on a mountain in Galilee.

• **Narrate the story:** Invite a pastor or another adult to tell the Bible story from a first-person point of view. Ask him to dress in Bible-times clothes. You will read the story except for the words Jesus spoke, which will be spoken by the guest.

After Jesus died and came back to life, Jesus spent time with His friends and taught them even more about God's kingdom. **Jesus told His eleven friends to go to a mountain in Galilee, so they did.**

When they arrived at the mountain, Jesus was there. The friends worshiped Jesus, but some doubted that it was really Him.

Jesus walked up close to His friends. He had something important to tell them. Jesus was going to give them a mission—a very important job to do. The friends needed to hear what Jesus had to say.

Jesus said, “I am in charge of everything in heaven and on earth.” Jesus has always been in charge because He is God's Son, but after Jesus died on the cross and was made alive again, God put Jesus in charge of all things in heaven and on earth. Jesus rules over God's kingdom as King.

Jesus commanded His friends—and everyone who trusts in Jesus—by saying, **“Go. Make followers of Me in every place on earth. Baptize them in My Father's name, My name, and the name of the Holy Spirit. Teach these followers to obey everything I have told you. Remember that I am always with you. Even until the very end of time, I am with you.”**

Christ Connection: Jesus told His friends to tell all people in all places about Him. Jesus' friends could do this because Jesus is in charge of everything, and He promised He would be with them. When we follow Jesus, He promises to always be with us too. Jesus' mission to His friends is our mission too. We are to tell people about Jesus so they can follow Him.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:16-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus gave His friends a mission.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Jesus Gave the Great Commission” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Call out actions for preschoolers to perform. Challenge boys and girls by including two or three actions in sequence.

SAY • You had to listen closely to play this game. Listening helped you know what to do. In today’s Bible story, Jesus’ friends listened closely to Him when He talked to them. Jesus gave them a mission, an important job to do.

Open your Bible to Matthew 28. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “He Was Raised” song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers who wish to say the key passage from memory to do so.

SAY • Today in our Bible story, we learned that Jesus gave His friends a special job to do. Jesus' friends were supposed to tell everyone about Jesus. Our key passage tells us that Jesus died on the cross and God made Him alive again on the third day.

Sing the key passage song "He Was Raised" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Jesus gave His friends a mission. Guess what? When we trust in Jesus, that mission becomes our mission too! *What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • When **Jesus gave His friends a mission**, He told them to tell all people in all places about Him. Jesus' friends could do this because Jesus is in charge of everything, and He promised He would be with them. When we follow Jesus, He promises to always be with us too. Jesus' mission to His friends is also our mission. We are to tell people about Jesus so they can follow Him.

- Main Point Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "Everywhere I Go" song
- "Thank You for Everything" song
- offering basket

Sing "The Glory" and "Everywhere I Go" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Thank You for Everything." You may also collect an offering.

- countdown video (optional)

SAY • God, thank You that the words in the Bible are true. Please help us do our mission and tell everyone about Jesus. Thank You for promising to always be with us. Amen.

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:16-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus gave His friends a mission.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



LOW PREP

- plastic cups
- index cards

Build a cup mountain

Demonstrate how to use cups and index cards to build a mountain. Say the main point aloud as boys and girls build. Talk about the mission Jesus gave His friends.

SAY • When Jesus told His friends to go to a mountain, He met them there and gave them a mission. We can know that Jesus' friends' mission is our mission too.

What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Draw a musical mural

- tape
- large sheet of paper
- markers and crayons
- "The Glory" song (optional)
- "He Was Raised" song (optional)

Tape a large sheet of paper to the wall at the preschoolers' level. Provide markers and crayons. Play music and invite boys and girls to create a mural by listening to the music and drawing the way it makes them feel. Guide children to draw slowly and softly when the music is soft and fast and bright when the music is loud and fast.

SAY • **Jesus gave His friends a mission.** Jesus' friends listened and knew that they could do what He said because He promised to always be with them.

- craft sticks
- markers
- cups, 1 per child
- stickers

Create a "job" jar

Invite preschoolers to decorate a cup with stickers. Talk

about jobs they do to help at home. As a child mentions a job, print it on a craft stick and add it to her cup. Continue until each child has a few job sticks. Print the big picture answer on sticks and add one to each cup.

SAY • Telling people about Jesus is the most important job of all! **Jesus gave His friends a mission**, an important job to do. This is our mission, too. We can tell people about Jesus anytime and anywhere, maybe even when we are doing other jobs.

Play a big picture question game

Place several hula hoops on the floor. Gather preschoolers inside the hoops. Ask random questions, such as “Who likes chocolate ice cream?” If the answer applies to a child, he will move quickly to a different circle. Randomly ask the big picture question. All children should answer it aloud as everyone moves to a new hoop.

• hula hoop

SAY • It’s important to know what our mission is. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*** We should tell people about Jesus so they can follow Him. Whom can you tell about Jesus?

Make and taste butter

Post an allergy alert. Pour cream into a container and secure the lid. Invite boys and girls to take turns shaking the mixture vigorously until the butter separates from the cream. Pour off buttermilk. Add salt if desired. Spread onto crackers and invite preschoolers to taste.

SAY • We had a job to do. We finished it, and now we are having a buttery snack. **Jesus gave His friends a mission**, or special job to do. Jesus will come back to earth when our mission is complete!

• Allergy Alert download
• heavy whipping cream
• clear plastic container with tight-fitting lid
• crackers
• plastic knife
• salt (optional)
• spoon (optional)

Transition to review the story

• countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:16-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus gave His friends a mission.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Where did Jesus' friends go to meet Him? (*They went to a mountain.*)
2. What did Jesus tell His friends? (*"I am in charge of everything on earth. Go and tell people about Me. I will always be with You."*)
3. What is a mission? (*A mission is a very important job to do.*)
4. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

SAY • Jesus gave His friends a very important job. It was a mission. Their mission was to teach people about Jesus. Jesus knew His friends could do it because Jesus promised to help them. Jesus promises to help us when we tell people about Jesus too.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for giving us a job to do. Please help us know what to say when we tell people about Jesus.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

Thank You for promising to help us. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is participating in a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about the word *mission*. Mention that the work or job of a missionary is to tell others about Jesus. You may also show the "An Amazing Thing" video.

- "An Amazing Thing" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

SAY • In our missions video, we met a college student named Morgan who went to Brazil to tell people about Jesus. Morgan played soccer with many boys and girls, but in Brazil her mission—her most important job—was to tell people about Jesus. Every time you see a soccer ball, I hope it makes you think about Morgan and the people of Brazil who need to hear about Jesus. Ask God to send more people to Brazil to tell people about Jesus.

Roll and tell

Gather preschoolers in a circle. Roll a soccer ball to a friend and ask him to tell something he knows about Jesus. Continue the game as families arrive for pick-up. Guide the conversation and encourage boys and girls to become more confident as they tell others about Jesus.

- soft soccer ball

SAY • We know that **Jesus gave His friends a mission.** Our mission is that same as the mission Jesus gave His friends. When we tell someone about Jesus, we are doing our mission!

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 1:4-14

MAIN POINT: Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

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5

Leader BIBLE STUDY

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus showed His followers that He is alive. He taught them about Himself and about God's kingdom. (Luke 24:25-27,44-48) Jesus told them that He would soon return to the Father. (John 20:17)

Jesus directed the Eleven to go a mountain. When they arrived, Jesus appeared. Some of them wondered if Jesus was finally going to overthrow the Roman government and

set up His kingdom on earth.



Jesus said, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8).

Jesus told them to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Father’s promise—the Holy Spirit. Those who repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus’ death and resurrection would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5) The Holy Spirit would give them power to live holy lives and take the gospel to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

After Jesus told the disciples these things, Jesus was taken up into the sky—right in front of their eyes! (Acts 1:9) Suddenly two men stood on the mountain next to the disciples. “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven?” they asked. They said Jesus would return the same way. (Acts 1:11)

Jesus is alive in heaven, waiting to return for His people. Jesus told the disciples He was going to prepare a place for them, and when we die, we will be with the Lord. (John 14:1-3) In the meantime, Jesus has not left us alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God’s work. One day Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Demonstrate the story:** Print the Bible story picture onto heavyweight paper. Cut out Jesus, His friends, and clouds. Laminate the figures or cover with clear contact plastic. Place strips of double stick tape on the back of each figure for easy attachment and removal. Affix the images to a firm surface as they are mentioned in the story.
- **Sit on a cloud:** Gather white sheets, blankets, and pillows. Arrange materials in the Bible story area to resemble a large cloud. Scatter quilt batting or cotton balls throughout the cloud. Invite preschoolers to gather on a cloud to hear the Bible story.

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Acts 1:4-14

Forty days had passed since Jesus rose from the dead. He had spent time with His friends. He had eaten with them and given them a very important mission. **Jesus' friends were back in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus told His friends not to leave the city, but to wait. God was going to send the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus reminded the disciples about John the Baptist. John the Baptist baptized people with water. Jesus said, "In just a few days, you will be baptized too—not with water, but with the Holy Spirit."

When Jesus and all His friends were together, His friends asked, "Lord, are You giving the kingdom back to Israel now?"

His friends still did not understand. God's kingdom is so much bigger than Israel. **Jesus said,** "That is not for you to know, but **you will get power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. You will tell people about Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**" Jesus knew His friends could not do God's work on their own. **The friends needed the Holy Spirit's power so they could tell people all across the world about Jesus.**

Then something amazing happened! Jesus' friends saw Jesus go up into the sky! A cloud took Him out of their sight. As the disciples looked into the sky, two men in white clothes stood beside them. The men said, "Why are you staring up into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven. One day, He will come back again in the same way."

Christ Connection: Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work on earth while we wait for Jesus to come back and make everything new.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Ascended to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 1:4-14

MAIN POINT: Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- small electric fan (adult use only)
- ribbons
- “Jesus Ascended to Heaven” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Show preschoolers a small fan. Turn on the fan and let each child feel the wind blow. Hold up narrow ribbon strips to the face of the fan to give a visual image of the wind power that the fan generates.

SAY • Wow, this fan is powerful! Do you see the wind blowing? Jesus spent time with His friends after God raised Him from the dead, but Jesus was going back to heaven. Listen to hear how God planned to give Jesus’ friends power to do their mission.

Open your Bible to Acts 1. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “He Was Raised” song

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your

Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage together.

SAY • Our key passage is very important. It tells us that God made Jesus alive after He had been dead for three days. It is our mission to tell others that Jesus is alive, and one day He will come back!

Sing the key passage song “He Was Raised” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Jesus taught His friends many things before He went up to heaven. He told them what their mission was. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*** Jesus told His friends that the Holy Spirit would give them the power to do their mission. The Holy Spirit will help us do our mission too.

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • Before **Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud**, He said that He would not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us do God’s work on earth while we wait for Jesus to come back and make everything new.

Sing “The Glory” and “Wherever You Go” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Thank You for Everything.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • Thank You, God, for Jesus. Even though Jesus has gone back to heaven, we know that we are not alone. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us until Jesus comes back. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- “The Glory” song
- “Wherever You Go” song
- “Thank You for Everything” song
- offering basket

Transition to experience the story

- countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Ascended to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 1:4-14

MAIN POINT: Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



LOW PREP

- white paper
- scissors
- tape

Hop on cloud shapes

Print each word of the key passage onto a sheet of white paper. Trim edges to form cloud shapes. Tape the papers to the floor to resemble a cloudy sky. Invite a child to hop from cloud to cloud. Say each word of the key passage as a child hops. Suggest a child repeat the key passage after you.

SAY • God raised Jesus from the dead. Forty days later, **Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.** After Jesus left, He sent the Holy Spirit to help us do our mission until Jesus comes back. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

Work Jesus puzzles

- Unit 27 Bible Story Pictures
- heavyweight paper
- scissors (adult use only)

Print the unit Bible story pictures onto heavyweight paper. Cut the pictures into three or four pieces. Invite children to assemble the puzzles, and help preschoolers recall the Bible stories as they work. Remind children that these stories are true.

SAY • After Jesus died on the cross, God made Him alive again! Jesus told His friends that He would send the Holy Spirit to help them tell everyone about Jesus. That was their mission. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

Draw in shaving cream

Dispense a small amount of non-menthol shaving cream on a flat surface in front of each child. Invite preschoolers to draw a / in the “clouds.”

SAY • **Jesus went up to heaven on a cloud.** Jesus will come back one day and make everything new. Until then, the Holy Spirit helps us do the mission Jesus gave us.

- Allergy Alert download
- non-menthol shaving cream
- wipes for clean up
- plastic tablecloth (optional)

Make “I Miss You” cards

Guide a preschooler to fold a sheet of construction paper to make a card. Suggest she make a card to send to a friend or family member who lives in another place. Write a message from the preschooler to the recipient on her card. As the preschooler decorates her card, comment that Jesus is not here now, but He will return.

SAY • We miss our friends and family when they are away from us. Jesus left earth and returned to heaven.

Jesus went up to heaven on a cloud, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us do God’s work on earth while we wait for Jesus to come back and make everything new.

- construction paper
- crayons and markers
- stickers (optional)

Draw and tell

Provide art supplies. Encourage preschoolers to think of someone they know who needs to know about Jesus. Discuss as boys and girls draw pictures of those people.

SAY • We see a lot of people every week who need to hear about Jesus—people in our family, in our neighborhood, and at our school. The Holy Spirit helps us with our mission. ***What is our mission?***
Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

- paper
- crayons and markers

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Ascended to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 1:4-14

MAIN POINT: Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Jesus do after He had finished telling His friends about God's plan? (**Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.**)
2. Who did Jesus say God would send to help them? (*the Holy Spirit*)
3. Jesus gave His friends a mission. What is a mission? (*a very important job to do*)
4. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

SAY • Remember the wind that our fan made? We could not see the wind, but we knew it was powerful because it made things move. Even though we can't see the Holy Spirit, we can believe that He is powerful and will help us do what God wants.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, we are thankful that You keep Your promises to us. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

us tell everyone about Jesus. We know that is our mission, and we believe the Holy Spirit will help us do it. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is participating in a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Jesus' friends were the first missionaries. They told people about Him. We are missionaries when we tell someone about Jesus. You may also show the "Away from It All" video.

SAY • Did you know that the Amazon River in the rain forest of Brazil is the second longest river in the world? The Jansen family lives in a village in Brazil. They get to tell people in their village about Jesus. Let's remember to pray for Mr. and Mrs. Jansen and their children as they do their mission of telling people about Jesus.

- "Away from It All" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Ask "What's in the sky?"

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle with you. Ask a child to name something she sees when she looks toward the sky. Invite the next child to name the first child's answer, and follow it with another item he might see while looking up. For young preschoolers, help them remember what the person before them said, but they do not have to remember every child's answer. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY • Can you imagine how Jesus' friends felt when **Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud**? The Bible says one day Jesus will come back!

Tip: If a child repeats someone else's answer as her own, that is OK.

A Song of Thanksgiving

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 12

MAIN POINT: We thank God because Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Picture the reality of your salvation: Imagine standing as a defendant in a courtroom. You've been justly found guilty of a crime and then penalty is death. But rather than ordering law enforcement to lead you away to be executed, the judge gets up and takes your place. He takes your punishment upon himself, declaring your innocence and allowing you to walk free. How would you respond?

This is essentially what Jesus does for sinners who trust in



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Him. God is the judge, and rather than sentencing us to death like we deserve, the Father sent His Son to take our place. That is mercy and grace. So how should we respond?

Look at how Moses and the Israelites responded when God rescued them from Egypt and led them across the Red Sea. Exodus 15 describes their song. They praise the Lord and tell what He has done for them. This same attitude of thankfulness—the proper response to the good news of the gospel—is described in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah had a vision of God's grace toward sinners, and he describes in Isaiah 12 the song we will sing to the Lord. We will praise God for His mercy and compassion (Isa. 12:1-2), thank Him for keeping His promise to save us (vv. 3-4), and tell of His glory and greatness among the nations (vv. 5-6).

Once we experience salvation, we don't sit back and cruise through the Christian life. Salvation is a call to action. Out of thankfulness for the Lord, we can love others like Jesus (1 John 4:10-12) and share with the world the good news of the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; John 14:15). Guide preschoolers to recognize that every good gift comes from God (Jas. 1:17), and God's greatest gift to us is His own Son, Jesus. With hearts of gratitude, praise and worship the Lord together.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Highlight words:

Print various phrases from Isaiah 12 onto sentence strips using different colored markers. Give a phrase to each child, reading each phrase. (For a larger group, make more sets.) Tell the story. As you read a phrase, invite the friends holding those words to stand up and show the words.

• Sing the story:

As you tell the story, sing a simple, made-up tune as you read the song. Remember, preschoolers don't care if you can't carry a tune, so sing joyfully! Strum a chord on an autoharp or guitar and create your own tune to the Bible phrases.

A Song of Thanksgiving

Isaiah 12

God gave a message to Isaiah the prophet, and Isaiah told God's words to the people of Judah. Isaiah told the people about a day that is coming—the day of the Lord. On that day, God will judge the earth and bless His people.

What will that day be like? It will be a happy day! God will rescue His people from sin, and God's people will sing and thank Him.

On the day of the Lord, **people will say these words:**

“I will praise You, Lord!

You were angry with me, but You did not stay angry.

You have comforted me

Yes, God is the One who saves me.

I will trust Him and not be afraid.

The Lord makes me strong and keeps me safe.”

Isaiah said that **God will save His people and give them joy. The people will sing a song like this: “Praise the Lord! Make His name famous! Tell everyone what He has done. Sing to the Lord. He has done wonderful things. Tell everyone in the world about Him. Everyone who loves God, shout and sing! God is holy. He is with you, and He is great!”**

Christ Connection: Isaiah told about a day when God's words would come true—God would bless His people and they would celebrate. God kept His promise to save people from sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Those who trust in Him celebrate and are thankful.

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Song of Thanksgiving

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 12

MAIN POINT: We thank God because Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Stars” song
- “The Glory” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Stars” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Glory.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- sticky notes
- marker
- “A Song of Thanksgiving” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Ask for volunteers to call out things they are thankful for. Print suggestions onto sticky notes and decorate a focal wall with notes of thanksgiving.

SAY • We have so many things to be thankful for! I am thankful for my Bible. We will read today from the Old Testament. God gave a message to Isaiah. God told Isaiah about a happy day when God would rescue His people from sin, and the people would be thankful.

Open your Bible to Isaiah 12. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “He Was Raised” song

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at 1 Corinthians 15:4. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your

Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage together.

SAY • Our key passage is in the New Testament, the part of the Bible that tells what happened after Jesus came down to earth. This verse tells that God planned for Jesus to die on a cross and be raised from the dead three days later to rescue us from sin.

Sing the key passage song “He Was Raised” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Isaiah wrote about the day of the Lord, when Jesus will come back to earth like He promised. What a happy day that will be for everyone who trusts in Jesus! It is important for us to tell others so that more and more people will know Jesus and be ready for His return. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • Isaiah told about a day when God’s words would come true—God would bless His people and they would celebrate. God kept His promise to save people from sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Those who trust in Him celebrate, and **we thank God because Jesus is alive.**

Sing “The Glory” and “Everywhere I Go” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Thank You for Everything.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • What a wonderful gift You gave us, God! Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from sin. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “The Glory” song
• “Everywhere I Go” song
• “Thank You for Everything” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Song of Thanksgiving

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 12

MAIN POINT: We thank God because Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



- alphabet blocks
- index cards
- markers

Spell with blocks

Before class, print words from the Bible story on index cards. Place the index cards and alphabet blocks on the floor. Guide children to use the blocks to spell the story-related words. Read the words to the preschoolers.

SAY • You are spelling words from today's Bible story. The story is from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah told about a happy day when God's people will celebrate because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin. **We can thank God because Jesus is alive.**

Play with people figures

- plastic people figures

Arrange people figures on a flat surface. Point to all the happy people in the story picture. Encourage boys and girls to use the figures to pretend they are telling people about Jesus. Suggest the figures are talking in various locations (grocery store, park, a relative's house). Commend preschoolers as they show they understand their mission.

SAY • You are telling someone about Jesus. You understand what your mission is. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*** When we tell people about Jesus, they can trust in Him and celebrate on the day of the Lord.

Make a joyful noise

Provide rhythm instruments. Play instruments and sing the main point to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” (“We – thank – God because – Jesus is – alive!” Repeat.)

SAY • Isaiah said that God would save His people and they would celebrate. God kept His promise to save people from sin when He sent His Son, Jesus. **We can thank God because Jesus is alive.**

- rhythm instruments

Create a thankful quilt

Before class, cut colorful paper into fourths. Give each preschooler several sheets, at least four per preschooler. Suggest she draw things she can thank God for. Mention Isaiah’s thanksgiving song as boys and girls draw. Form a quilt with a child’s drawings by connecting the sheets with decorative tape.

SAY • You have drawn many things that you are thankful for. You could show your quilt to a friend and tell him or her how great God is. God wants us to tell everyone in the world about Him. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

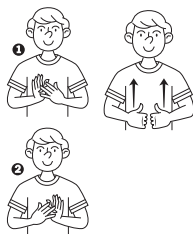
- colorful paper
- scissors
- crayons and markers
- decorative tape

Sign the main point

Practice signing the words *Jesus* (touch the palm of each hand with the middle finger of the opposite hand) and *alive* (with both hands, point index finger with thumb extended and glide up your torso from hips to shoulders). Demonstrate the signs and help preschoolers make them as you say the main point together. Repeat several times.

SAY • Some people use sign language to communicate. We practiced sharing the good news in sign language. **We thank God because Jesus is alive.**

Tip: Check out simple hand signs online and practice the signs before class.



- countdown video (optional)

Transition to review the story

Review THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Song of Thanksgiving

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 12

MAIN POINT: We thank God because Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What will the day of the Lord (when Jesus comes back) be like? (*It will be a happy day.*)
2. What will the people do to thank God for rescuing them from their sins? (*The people will sing and praise God.*)
3. Tell me something from our story that the people will say on that day. (*Answers will vary.*)
4. Who did God send to rescue us from sin? (*Jesus*)
5. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.***

SAY • When people understand that God kept His promise to save them from sin, they can look forward to this happy day of celebration. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue us from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we can celebrate and thank God because Jesus is alive.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Glory" song
- "He Was Raised" song

SAY • Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to die on the cross and to rise again. We know that Jesus will save us from our sin. Help us tell others about Jesus as we look forward to the day of the Lord. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how people all over the world—even in our town and in our neighborhoods—need to hear the good news about Jesus. You may also show the “All the Many Places” video.

- “All the Many Places” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

SAY • Missionaries tell people everywhere about Jesus. That is their mission. Our mission is the same, but we do not have to wait until we are grown up or move far away! We can tell people about God's love and His plan to send Jesus right now. ***What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.*** Think of someone you can tell about Jesus this week.

Play “Did Isaiah Write It?”

Speak a sentence that Isaiah may or may not have written from today's Bible story. Instruct boys and girls to stand up if the statement is something they heard in the Bible story, and sit down if they did not hear it. Preface each statement with “Isaiah wrote...” (Sample statements: “I praise You, God.” “I have a pet hamster.” “My favorite color is green.” “The Lord makes me strong.” “I will sing to the Lord.” “The people went to the zoo.”)

SAY • Isaiah wrote about a happy time that is coming, the day of the Lord. The people will sing and thank God for Jesus, who saved them from their sins after He died on the cross and rose again.

5 Keys to Teaching Kids the Gospel

HAVE YOU EVER FELT OVERWHELMED ABOUT TEACHING KIDS BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH IN THE BIBLE TO TEACH, AND IT'S ALL IMPORTANT?

I have felt that way at times, but what I have found helpful is to remember the big picture of what I am teaching—the gospel.

Our goal is not to teach stories or doctrines in isolation. Our goal is to teach our kids the gospel—the unified story of Jesus that runs throughout the Bible. So let's look at five keys to teaching kids the gospel based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

KNOW THE GOSPEL (V. 4)

God begins with an important theological statement about Himself—God is One. God is unique, there is none like Him. As we begin thinking about how to teach kids, God invites us first to ponder who He is. Why? Because we cannot pass along that which we don't have ourselves.

We need to make sure that we are spending time with God,

considering who He is and His ways. A big part of this is camping out on the gospel and diving more deeply into its riches to understand the beauty and splendor of Christ. Remember that our best teaching always comes from the overflow!

LOVE THE GOSPEL (VV. 5-6)

There is a natural progression from verse 4 to verses 5 and 6. Spending meaningful time with God will stir our affections and increase our love for God and the gospel.

Don't miss in verse 6 what we are to love—God's commands. We don't usually think about loving God's commands, but it makes sense. When we know God and love Him, we understand that all He does is for His glory and our good. We love God's commands because we know and trust His heart behind them.

Notice, the first three verses all center on us, not our kids. That's critical. The best way to prepare ourselves to teach our kids is to give God space to work in our own hearts and lives.

SHARE THE GOSPEL (V. 7)

We are to teach the gospel repeatedly, looking for new ways to help our kids understand the gospel's beauty and power on a deeper and more profound level. The original Hebrew in that verse carries the meaning of “piercing the heart,” which is a great visual for us. We want what we teach to get deep down into our kids' hearts. That is why we have to be sure to teach the gospel—only the gospel satisfies the heart.

This also reminds us of our need to teach the “why” of the gospel, not just the “what.” Teaching is not just transferring facts. Facts tend to get into the mind and not go much farther. The gospel needs to get into the heart as well. And that is why we need to teach God's heart—the “why” of the gospel.

LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL (VV. 7-8)

We usually think of teaching in a more formal sense, but that just scratches the surface. Notice when we are to talk about the gospel with our kids. When we sit, walk, lie down, and stand—in other words, all the time. The idea is not that we always teach formally, but that we weave the gospel into our daily rhythm of life.

This is powerful! We want our kids to see that the gospel makes a difference in how we think, feel, and live.

BE MARKED BY THE GOSPEL (V. 9)

When you think of writing God's words on your doorposts and gates, picture a house address. An address defines your house—it is how a delivery person or guest can differentiate your house from other houses.

That is what the gospel should do for us. It should define us and set us apart from others around us. And if we are living out this passage to this point, being marked by the gospel will naturally occur as we live out the gospel and show our kids and the world the sweet fragrance of Christ.

Brian Dembowczyk is the team leader for The Gospel Project for Kids. Brian, his wife, Tara, and their three children—Joshua, Hannah, and Caleb—live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where Brian enjoys drinking coffee and teaching 4th–5th graders at City Church.

The Importance of Routine in Classroom Management

MY DAILY ROUTINE IS ... WELL ... PRETTY ROUTINE. EACH DAY, I WAKE UP, SHOWER, GET DRESSED, GO TO WORK, COME HOME, EAT DINNER, GO TO SLEEP, AND START ALL THAT OVER AGAIN THE NEXT DAY. ONE DAY I RECALL LOOKING FOR MY KEYS WHICH WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

Where could my keys have gone? They were not where they were supposed to be, so I couldn't find them. Once I did recover the lost keys, I realized that my keys were misplaced by a simple breakdown of my routine. I always put my keys on the hook when I get home so I don't have to search for them when I need them.

When that routine breaks down, silliness ensues. So how do we apply this simple concept to our classrooms?

It's been said that having a routine has many benefits which include structure, efficiency, good habits, and makes tasks more doable. Let's look at each of these and see how they apply in kids ministry.

STRUCTURE

One of the things I heard many times when directing a summer program was, "My kids need structure." This is so very true. One thing that routine in your classroom provides for kids is structure. When you and your fellow leaders provide an easy routine, this ensures that kids have a good idea what is coming and will help them get mentally ready for the learning to come.

EFFICIENCY

When you have a routine that kids are comfortable with, your teaching time will become much more efficient. You might even think you have a few extra hours (OK, minutes) that you didn't expect.

GOOD HABITS

Good habits are easy to come by when a classroom is ruled by routine. When kids know what to expect they are more inclined to respond in such a way that both kids and leaders have a positive experience.

DOABLE TASKS

Part of your routine should certainly include activities that are appropriate for a child's age and learning style. When we provide activities that are too challenging for a child, we might have a breakdown in our routine.

What does a routine look like? Well, that really depends on what your classroom looks like. Routine in our classroom looks like this, but you can decide what works best for the kids you lead.

We begin a session by providing activities that kids can do the moment they walk into

the room. We move from there to focused Bible study time. After a bit, we do an active activity that gets kids up from their chairs and moving. We finish with another time of study with our interactive pages and always end with prayer.

When kids walk into our classroom each week they know what to expect, so moving from one activity to another has become second nature to them. After just a few sessions kids move immediately from one activity to another with very little need to hear from leaders over and over what they need to do.



Tim Pollard teaches 3rd–6th graders on Sunday nights at Tulip Grove Baptist Church. He's passionate about helping kids dig deep into Scripture, which he pursues through his daily work as leader of the *Explore the Bible: Kids* team. Tim lives with his wife and daughters in Mount Juliet, Tennessee.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.



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