Unit 1. Learn About Jesus

SESSION 1
NAME HIM JESUS

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- newspaper
- markers
- paper
- music CD
- blocks
- masking tape

SESSION 2
JESUS CALMED A STORM

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- music CD
- paper
- crayons
- index cards
- tape

SESSION 3
THE RICH YOUNG RULER

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- paper
- crayons
- play money or paper strips and large buttons
- coins

SESSION 4
PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- paper
- markers, crayons
- musical instruments
- praise CD
- plant branches, allergy alert
- index cards, small container
- scissors, tape
- magnifying glasses

SESSION 5
JESUS IS ALIVE!

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- index cards, marker
- blanket, objects in room (markers, blocks, toys, etc.)
- play dough, melon ball scoops
- grocery bags, Bibles
- heavy items (books, etc.)
- sticky notes, dot stickers, tape
- white paper, scissors, crayons

SESSION 6
PETER TOLD ABOUT JESUS

VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED
- construction paper
- markers, crayons
- tape
- index cards
- stickers
- microphone or cardboard tube
- blocks
UNIT 1, SESSION 1

Name Him Jesus


LIFE POINT
Jesus was a real person.

LIFE VERSE
This is Jesus. Matthew 21:11

WEEKLY VERSE
His name will be Jesus. Luke 1:31

TRANSITION AND GROUP TIME

SNACK
Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
Invite preschoolers to spell aloud their names as they walk to group time.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
Open your Bible to Matthew and then Luke as you tell the Bible story.

• An angel visited Mary and said, “You will have a baby and name Him Jesus. He will be the Son of God.” Mary was surprised but said, “I will do what God says.”

• Mary went to visit Elizabeth, her cousin. Elizabeth was happy to see Mary. Elizabeth was going to have a baby also. Her baby jumped when she heard Mary’s greetings. “You will have a special baby,” Elizabeth said. Elizabeth told Mary she was blessed (received a good gift from God). Mary was so happy, she sang a song of praise to God.

• Joseph learned Mary was to have a baby. One night an angel spoke to him in a dream. “Mary’s baby is special. He is the Son of God. You will name Him Jesus.” Joseph did what the angel told him to do.

• Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to be counted. The baby was born just as the angels said. They named Him Jesus. He was the most special baby ever born!
SING TOGETHER
Sing these words to the tune of “London Bridge”:
God sent Jesus to be born,
To be born, to be born.
God sent Jesus to be born;
The angel told about Him.
The angel talked to Mary*,
To Mary, to Mary.
The angel talked to Mary;
Yes, he did.
You** will have a baby boy,
Baby boy, baby boy.
You will have a baby boy;
Yes, you will.
*Substitute: Joseph.
**Substitute: she.

SAY THE LIFE VERSE
Show children Matthew 21:11 in your Bible. Say aloud the verse. Direct children to stand on the first word (This), squat on the second (is), and jump up on the last (Jesus). Children can wave their hands in the air as they say the reference. Invite the children to do the actions as they say the verse several times.

PRAY
Inquire if the children have any family or friends who are ill, traveling, or just want to pray for them. Invite a few children to pray before praying yourself.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Emphasize during the activities: Jesus was a real person.

A. Look for letters. Print the name Jesus on paper. Display and read aloud the name. Give children old newspapers and markers. Encourage preschoolers to find and circle those five letters in the newspaper.

B. Clap and hear. Tell children that when they hear the name Jesus, they are to jump up and sit back down. Guide children in a simple rhythm: pat knees twice, clap hands twice, and say a child’s name. Periodically call out the name Jesus instead. Encourage preschoolers to take turns calling out names of friends. Mention that the baby inside Elizabeth jumped when Mary greeted Elizabeth.

C. Move and listen. Play music from a CD. Encourage children to move to the music. Tell them to freeze and listen carefully to your instructions each time you stop the music. Give an action (hop on one foot, walk backward, spin in a circle, etc.) each time you stop the music. Remark that Mary and Joseph listened and did what the angel said.

D. Build paths with blocks. Invite children to use blocks to build paths. Talk about the path Mary took to Elizabeth’s house. Encourage boys and girls to take turns building and walking along the paths.

CLEAN UP
Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

WALK A TAPED NAME PATH
Use masking tape to form the name Jesus on the floor. Guide children to walk on the letters. Call out each letter as a child walks on it. Mention that the letters spell the name Jesus. Challenge preschoolers to walk backward, crawl, or hop on the letters.

DISMISS
Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.
UNIT 1, SESSION 2

Jesus Calmed a Storm
Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

LIFE POINT
Jesus did things people cannot do.

LIFE VERSE
Tell others about Jesus. Mark 16:15

WEEKLY VERSE
Even the wind and the sea obey Jesus. Mark 4:41

SNACK
Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
Guide children to pretend to row (paddle) in a boat as they walk to group time. Lead preschoolers to alternate rowing on both sides of their bodies.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
Open your Bible to Mark or Luke. Remark to the children that the Bible story can be found in two Bible books in the New Testament: Mark and Luke. Display the book your Bible is opened to for the children to see. Relate that the children rowed as if they were in boats because the story takes place in a boat. Tell the Bible story.

• Jesus had taught people about God. He told His helpers (disciples), “Let’s go to the other side of the lake.” They got into a boat and began to sail across the lake. Jesus fell asleep on a cushion in the boat.
• Suddenly a great wind began to blow. The wind blew so hard that waves of water splashed into the boat. The helpers were frightened! They thought the boat would sink. The men woke up Jesus and cried out for help.
• Jesus stood up and said, “Be quiet! Be still!” Immediately the wind stopped blowing, and the waves became calm. Jesus asked the men, “Didn’t you know I could help you?” The helpers were amazed that even the wind and waves obeyed Jesus.
**SING TOGETHER**

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

Jesus calmed the wind and waves,
Wind and waves, wind and waves.

Jesus calmed the wind and waves;
People cannot do that.

Jesus told the waves be still,
Waves be still, waves be still.
Jesus told the waves be still,
And the waves were calm.

**SAY THE LIFE VERSE**

Guide children to stand in pairs (with partners). Say aloud Mark 16:15. Lead preschoolers to repeat the verse a couple of times. Challenge them to stand back to back and turn quickly to each other and say the verse. Give children the command to turn and say the verse after you. Comment that the helpers told people about Jesus and we can, too.

**PRAY**

Thank Jesus for calming storms and loving us.

**BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

**Emphasize during the activities:** Jesus did things people cannot do.

**A. Still the waves.** Guide boys and girls to move around like waves as you play a song on a music CD. Stop the music randomly and shout: “Be still, waves!” Children should freeze until the music starts again. Continue playing and give different children the opportunity to shout when the music stops.

**B. Make wave pictures.** Lead children to fold paper in half. Encourage them to draw big waves on one side of the paper and calm waves on the other. Talk about the Bible story with the children as they draw.

**C. Experiment with wind.** Demonstrate how to fold a paper, accordion style, into a fan. Encourage children to fold fans. Invite them to use their fans to blow objects around the room. Challenge preschoolers to guess if they think an item will or will not blow over before they try. Set up various objects from within the room for them to fan. Give older preschoolers index cards and crayons to keep tallies of how many items blew over and how many did not.

**D. Make storm sounds.** Reenact the sounds of a storm by making noises with hands and feet: rub hands together, snap fingers, clap hands on knees, stomp on the floor. Reverse order. Challenge the children to stop the storm when you give the command. Invite children to take turns stopping the storm noises. Inquire if children can really stop storms. State that only Jesus can stop storms.

**CLEAN UP**

Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

**JUMP AND PLAY**

Print each word of the Life Point on a different index card. Tape the cards on the floor in a wave-like pattern. Encourage children to jump, hop, crawl, or tiptoe to each word. Call out words as a child lands on them. Lead preschoolers to say the words back to you. Say the entire statement when a child reaches the end. Encourage boys and girls to say the Life Point back to you.

**DISMISS**

Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.
UNIT 1, SESSION 3

Room ____________  
Your teaching partner(s) ___________________  ___________________
Thank you for serving!

DATE OF USE _______

TRANITION AND GROUP TIME

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
 Invite a child to open your Bible marked with a bookmark at Mark 10. Comment that the Bible story is from the New Testament Book of Mark. Tell the Bible story.

• One day as Jesus and His helpers (disciples) started on a journey, a man came up to ask Him a question. “How can I go to heaven?” the man asked Jesus.
• Jesus said, “You know all the commandments. Do not kill. Do not lie. Do not steal. Honor your father and mother.”
• The man said he knew and obeyed these commandments since he was a young boy.
• Jesus looked at the man and felt love for him. “There is one more thing you must do,” Jesus said. “Sell everything you own, give it to the poor, and follow Me.”
• When he heard this, the man was sad. He wanted to follow Jesus, but he did not want to give up all that he owned.
• Jesus told His helpers, “With men it is not possible to go to heaven. But with God, everything is possible.”

SNACK
 Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
 Invite boys and girls to move to group time in slow motion.
SING TOGETHER
Sing to the tune of “Ring Around the Rosie”:
Jesus taught about God,
Jesus taught about God,
Jesus taught, Jesus taught, about God!

Jesus said to not lie*,
Jesus said to not lie,
Jesus said, Jesus said, do not lie!
*Substitute: steal.

SAY THE LIFE VERSE
Lead children to sit in a row. Whisper to the first child in the row each word of the verse, pausing between words for him to whisper the word to the child next to him. Encourage children to whisper the word to each other to the end of the line. The last child will say aloud the words. Lead children to repeat the verse after you.

PRAY
Inquire what it means to pray. Remark that praying is “talking to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.” Invite a few children to pray. Close by praying for everyone to learn something about Jesus to tell someone.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Emphasize during the activities: Jesus taught about God.

A. Make signs about God. Distribute paper and crayons. Encourage children to draw pictures to help teach people about God. Talk about things children might know about God (God loves people; God sent Jesus; God does not want us to lie). Print what the children know on paper for them to decorate and display.

B. Show emotions. Lead children to show emotions. Invite them to respond to the words you say with their faces and bodies. Say aloud different phrases (surprise, ouch, yucky, I don’t have anyone to play with, I love you, etc.) with different intonations. Comment that the rich young ruler was sad after hearing that he had to give up his money and things.

C. Play a game. Guide preschoolers to sit in a circle. Explain that they will play a game like “Duck, Duck, Goose!” But they will use these words: “Jesus! Jesus! Taught!” Guide children to be kind and take turns as they play. Comment that Jesus taught about God.

D. Play with money. Provide play money and coins or strips of colored paper and large buttons for money. Invite children to play with the money. Suggest they could shop and buy items (clerks and customers) or visit a bank (bank tellers and customers). Comment that the man in the Bible story was rich; he had much money. Say that he did not want to give away his money to follow Jesus. Caution: Coins and buttons may be choking hazards.

CLEAN UP
Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

MAKE COIN RUBBINGS
Provide an assortment of coins, white paper, and unwrapped crayons. Lead a child to lay a paper over a coin and rub over it with the crayon. Encourage children to examine things like which are bigger or smaller or which are rough or smooth. Talk about the Bible story with children as they color. Caution: Coins may be choking hazards.

DISMISS
Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.
People Welcomed Jesus

Mark 11:1-11

LIFE POINT
Jesus is worthy of our praise.

LIFE VERSE
This is Jesus. Matthew 21:11

WEEKLY VERSE
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Luke 19:38

UNIT 1, SESSION 4

Room ____________
Your teaching partner(s) __________________
_________________

Thank you for serving!

DATE OF USE _______

BONUS TEACHING HOUR

TRANSITION AND GROUP TIME

SNACK
Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
Invite children to hop and shout “Hosanna!” as they go to group time.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
Inquire if anyone knows what the word *hosanna* means. Invite responses. Then comment that *hosanna* is “a word of praise and joy.” Remark that the children will learn about a time when people shouted “hosanna” to Jesus. Mention that the Bible story is from the Book of Mark in the New Testament. Invite a child to open your Bible to Mark 11. Tell the Bible story.

• As Jesus and His helpers (disciples) traveled to Jerusalem, Jesus told two helpers, “Go ahead into the village and find a young donkey. Bring the donkey to me. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying the donkey?’ say, ‘Jesus needs it.’”

• The helpers did what Jesus said and brought the donkey to Jesus. The men put their coats on the donkey’s back. Jesus got on the donkey and rode it along the road to Jerusalem.

• People laid their coats and plant branches on the road as Jesus rode by. Some people shouted happy words to Jesus. The people remembered everything Jesus did to help people.
SING TOGETHER
Use any tune to sing these words:
  Who is? Who is?
  Who is worthy of my praise?
  Jesus! Jesus!
  He is worthy of my praise!

SAY THE LIFE VERSE
Print the name Jesus on paper and display. Point to each letter as you lead children to repeat the letters after you. Explain that the people answered with the words “This is Jesus” when asked who the man was they were praising. Then lead children to say and spell with you: “This is J-e-s-u-s, J-e-s-u-s, J-e-s-u-s! This is J-e-s-u-s. Jesus! Matthew 21:11.”

PRAY
Comment that praying to God can be a time to praise Him and not ask for things for ourselves. Inquire what the children might say in a praise prayer. Offer some suggestions of things to say. Invite a few children to say short prayers of praise. Say a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Emphasize during the activities: Jesus is worthy of our praise.

  A. Play with instruments. Play praise music on a CD or your phone. Encourage boys and girls to play the instruments with the music. Remind children that they can praise Jesus with instruments and songs!
  B. Make banners. Provide crayons, paper, and tape for children to make banners. Encourage them to draw pictures of parts of the Bible story. Show preschoolers how to tape the pictures together to make a big banner. Display the banner for parents to see.
  C. Play follow-the-leader. Help children take turns leading friends around the room. Encourage them to shout “Hosanna” or “Praise Jesus” as they walk. Direct children to jump, walk, hop, tiptoe, skip, or walk backward. Mention that people praised Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem.

  D. Examine branches. Provide an assortment of branches (palm branches, if available), magnifying glasses, paper, and markers. Encourage children to inspect the different parts of the branches. They can also trace, compare, or sort the branches. Talk about the Bible story as they examine the branches. Make sure no branches are from poisonous plants. Post an allergy alert for parents to see.

CLEAN UP
Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

LEARN WAYS TO PRAISE
Print words on separate index cards: sing, pray, tell, give, read. Print these letters multiple times on an index card and cut apart: s, p, t, g, r. Put the letters inside a container. Comment that people welcomed Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem. Inquire of ways the children can show they welcome and love Jesus. Place the cards on the floor. Invite children to take turns pulling letters and matching them to the cards. Read aloud the word each time a match is made. Remark that these are five ways to praise Jesus and show Him we love Him. Invite children to sing a song, pray, and tell something they know about Jesus. Mention that people can give money, time, and abilities (jobs) and read the Bible.

DISMISS
Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.
UNIT 1, SESSION 5

Jesus Is Alive!
Matthew 28:1-10

LIFE POINT
Jesus is in heaven.

LIFE VERSE
This is Jesus. Matthew 21:11

WEEKLY VERSE
Jesus is alive. Matthew 28:6

Thank you for serving!

DATE OF USE ______

TRANSITION AND GROUP TIME

SNACK
Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
Encourage children to say, “Alive! Alive! Alive! Jesus is alive!” as they move to group time. Guide them to speak softer and softer each time.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
Invite children to name things that are alive. Comment that the people knew Jesus had died and was placed in a tomb and a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb. Challenge the children to listen and learn why they said “Alive! Jesus is alive!” as they moved to group time. Tell the Bible story.

- Mary and another Mary went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. An earthquake shook the ground as an angel from God came to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- The angel spoke to the two women, “Don’t be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He is alive, just as He said. Come see where He was laying. Then go and tell His helpers (disciples), ‘He is alive!’ ”
- The women left quickly and ran to tell the helpers. Jesus met and greeted the women. The women went up to Jesus and touched His feet. Jesus told them to not be afraid and to tell the helpers to go to Galilee where they would see Him.
SING TOGETHER
Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:
Oh, Jesus is alive!
Oh, Jesus is alive!
Jesus is in heaven;
Oh, Jesus is alive!

SAY THE LIFE VERSE
Print the words and reference on separate index cards. Display and read aloud the first word. Encourage children to repeat the word. Hide and display the word several times. (Think flash cards.) Repeat process to teach the other words and reference. Display the first two words for children to repeat, then three, and finally all four cards.

PRAY
Remark that Jesus lived on earth, died, and was made alive by God. Say that Jesus now lives in heaven. Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Emphasize during activities: Jesus is in heaven.

A. Cover and guess. Gather a blanket and items from around the room. Lay the items in a row. Invite preschoolers to look at the items. Cover items with the blanket and direct children to close their eyes. Switch two items and then uncover them. Invite boys and girls to guess which items switched places. Repeat a few times. Then cover items, lead children to close their eyes, and remove one item. Allow children to guess what is missing. Repeat several times. Mention that Jesus was not where the women thought He would be because He was alive.

B. Make play dough stones. Provide play dough and melon ball or ice cream scoops. Show preschoolers how to form different-sized stones from the dough. Talk about the story. Mention that the angel rolled the stone away. Say that Jesus is alive and is in heaven.

C. Lift heavy things. Fill grocery bags with heavy items (books, large toys, etc.). Vary the weights to make some bags heavier than others. Invite children to lift each bag. Talk about how heavy the bags are. Remark that the stone the angel moved was heavy.

D. Search for Bibles. Attach sticky notes at Matthew 28:6 in Bibles of different sizes and colors. Hide the Bibles throughout the room. Invite children to find the Bibles. Demonstrate how to gently open the Bibles to the sticky notes. Say that the women went to look for Jesus. Read aloud the verse. Comment that the Bible tells us that Jesus is alive and is in heaven. Say that we looked for Bibles and learned that the Bible says Jesus is alive and in heaven.

CLEAN UP
Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

MAKE ARMBANDS
Print Jesus is alive! on white construction paper strips. Encourage boys and girls to decorate the armbands with crayons, markers, or dot stickers. Help each child attach his armband around his wrist with tape. Inquire as to who saw the empty tomb and then saw and touched Jesus as they went to tell the disciples (women; Mary Magdalene and the other Mary). Ask what the women were to tell the disciples (Jesus is alive). Mention that the armband can be a reminder to tell people Jesus is alive!

DISMISS
Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.
UNIT 1, SESSION 6

Peter Told About Jesus
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-2,6-11,14,22,37-41

LIFE POINT
Jesus wants people to love Him.

LIFE VERSE
Tell others about Jesus. Mark 16:15

WEEKLY VERSE
Believe in Jesus. John 14:1

SNACK
Include children in the distribution of the snack. Ask one or more volunteers to pray. Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME
Encourage children to join in, one at a time, to make a human chain. Lead the chain to group time.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY
Mention that the Bible story involved many people from different places who spoke different languages. Encourage children to listen to what happened after a great wind blew in. Invite a child to open your Bible to Acts 2. Tell the Bible story.

• Peter and the other helpers (disciples) of Jesus were staying together in a house. They heard a sound like a strong wind. People gathered outside the house after hearing the sound. Then the helpers went out to tell the people about Jesus. Each person heard the men speak in his own language.

• Then Peter stood up and talked to all the people. “Listen to me,” Peter said. “I have an important message to tell you about Jesus.”

• Many people listened to the message that Peter spoke that day. “What should we do?” the people asked.

• “Start making right choices,” Peter said. Many people believed in Peter’s words and believed in Jesus.
SING TOGETHER
Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:
*Clap your hands if you love Jesus, clap your hands. (clap, clap)
Clap your hands if you love Jesus, clap your hands. (clap, clap)
Clap your hands if you love Jesus,
Clap your hands if you love Jesus, clap your hands. (clap, clap)
*Substitute: Stomp your feet; turn around.

SAY THE LIFE VERSE
State the Life Verse. Invite children to repeat it three times. Instruct children to squat low and whisper the verse. Lead children to slowly rise saying the verse. Tell children to throw their arms up in the air and shout the verse.

PRAY
Pray, asking God to help everyone tell someone about Jesus. Pray for missionaries around the world who tell people about Jesus.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Emphasize during activities: Jesus wants people to love Him.
A. Walk on a word. Tape the word Tell in large letters on the floor. Mention that Jesus loves children and wants them to love Him. State that for children to love Jesus they must first hear about Jesus. Say aloud the Life Verse. Invite children to walk along the word TELL as they name ways to tell about Jesus.
B. Build the city of Jerusalem. Tell the children that the Bible story took place in the city of Jerusalem. Invite the children to use the blocks to build the city of Jerusalem. Comment that in Bible times, buildings were not tall; they did not have several floors or levels. Talk about the Bible story as children build. Mention that Peter told the crowd about Jesus. State that we can tell about Jesus.
C. Match Bible words. Print simple words from the Bible story on index cards. Make two sets. Mix up one set and lay the cards faceup for younger children and facedown for older. Invite a child to choose a card from the other set of cards and look for its match. Read aloud the words when preschoolers make matches. Mention that Peter told people about Jesus. Jesus wants people to love Him.
D. Make cards. Provide construction paper or index cards, crayons or markers, and stickers. Encourage boys and girls to make cards to tell people about Jesus. Challenge older preschoolers to copy the Bible verse onto their cards. Mention that Jesus wants people to love Him, so we should tell others about Him.

CLEAN UP
Assign a cleanup task to each child. Play music as children clean. Thank the children for their help.

TELL WHAT YOU KNOW
Provide a microphone or cardboard tube. Explain that the children will take turns telling things they know about Jesus. Tell something first as an example. Invite children to stand on a step stool to tell. Offer suggestions as needed. Review the Bible story. Mention that Peter told people about Jesus because Jesus wants people to love Him. Consider recording and letting children watch themselves.

DISMISS
Help children gather their papers and belongings. Remind parents to use the family Bible study this week on the One Conversation™ page.