Jesus died and came back to life.

Bible Verse
For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son (adapted from John 3:16).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- hear the story of Jesus' resurrection,
- learn why the women at the tomb were so excited, and
- share the good news with Pockets.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
Jesus is alive!

Luke 24:1-12

As the women headed for the tomb that Sunday morning, they were carrying spices intended for use in the completion of Jesus’ burial. The Sabbath had ended at dusk the night before, and they had likely been able to purchase the spices they needed then so that they could be on their way before it was light. Mark tells us that the women discussed along the way how they would be able to move the stone that sealed the entrance to the tomb (Mark 16:2-3). But when they got there, the stone had already been rolled away!

When the women saw the two men, their response was one of fear and respect, as indicated by their facedown posture. We don’t know why none of the women or the disciples seemed to remember Jesus’ predictions that he would be killed and then raised again on the third day (Matthew 16:21). However, the angel’s statement reminded them of those words.

The report of the women was not enough to convince the disciples that Jesus was alive. Peter and John, according to John 20:3, ran to the tomb to see for themselves. And even after Peter had seen the empty tomb, he was confused and didn’t yet believe Jesus had arisen.

Prayer
- Knowing what we know about Jesus’ death and resurrection, how is your life different from that of Jesus’ disciples at this point in their lives?
- Pray: God, help me get across to my class how important it is to believe in Jesus. Help me use this lesson to…
**Lesson 6**

**Before the Lesson**
- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout at the end of this lesson to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

**This Lesson at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Classroom Supplies</th>
<th>Learning Lab Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong></td>
<td>Welcome!—Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.</td>
<td>“Butterfly Name Tags” (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Get Started</strong></td>
<td>Option 1: Celebration Streamers—Make streamers to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.</td>
<td>Crepe paper streamers, scissors, straws, tape, jingle bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.</td>
<td>Option 2: Sweet Reminders—Color sandpaper crosses with cinnamon.</td>
<td>Sandpaper, cinnamon sticks, hole punch, yarn, scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option 3: Finger Puppets—Make finger puppets by drawing on their fingers.</td>
<td>Washable markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pick Up Our Toys—Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
<td>Setting the Stage—Watch the teacher turn a pencil into rubber.</td>
<td>Pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Song and Prayer Time—Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.</td>
<td>Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Hear the exciting news from Luke 24:1-12 that Jesus has risen.</td>
<td>Bible, bedsheet, celebration streamers from Option 1, sandpaper crosses from Option 2, finger puppets from Option 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do the Bible Story—Play a game to spread good news, and then sing.</td>
<td>CD player, streamers from Option 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
<td>Sad to Glad—Cheer Pockets with the good news that Jesus is alive.</td>
<td>Facial tissue, tape, CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back to Life—Have children blow up an inflatable object and compare it to the story of the Resurrection.</td>
<td>1 plastic straw for each child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Butterfly Name Tags” handout (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins

• Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
• Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
• Thank each child for coming to class today.
• As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned…” activities. Use questions such as “How did you thank Jesus for his love?” and “How did your family remember Jesus’ death?”
• Say: Today we’re going to learn that Jesus died and came back to life.
• Hand out the butterfly name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
• Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

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

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “When you hear good news, who’s the first person you tell?” or “What’s the best news you’ve ever heard?”

Option 1: Celebration Streamers

SUPPLIES: crepe paper streamers, scissors, straws, tape, jingle bells

Set out transparent tape, jingle bells, drinking straws, and 3-foot lengths of crepe paper streamers. Have each child take three streamers and tape them to one end of the drinking straw. Then help children tape jingle bells to the ends of two streamers. As children work, talk about different parties and celebrations that they might attend. Explain that today they’ll use the streamers to celebrate that Jesus died and came back to life. Allow children to make enough streamers for each child in the class to have one. Set them aside until the “Hear and Tell the Bible Story” activity.

Option 2: Sweet Reminders

SUPPLIES: sandpaper, cinnamon sticks, hole punch, yarn, scissors

Before children arrive, cut several 6x4-inch crosses from sandpaper. Set out whole cinnamon sticks, and allow children to rub the cinnamon over their sandpaper crosses. Then help each child punch a hole in the top of his or her cross and string a piece of yarn through it to make a hanger. Have children smell the cinnamon. Mention that cinnamon is a spice and in today’s story, some women prepared spices to take to Jesus’ tomb. Tell
If you don’t choose Option 3, be sure to have children draw finger puppets on their fingers before the start of the “Hear and Tell the Bible Story” activity.

Option 3: Finger Puppets

**SUPPLIES:** washable markers

Set out washable markers. Show children how to draw faces on their fingers and wiggle them like finger puppets. Allow children to draw on at least three fingers to make “finger puppets” that look like Jesus’ disciples. Have the children make a fist with their hands and then open them wide and wiggle their finger puppets. Tell children that when Jesus’ friends went to the tomb, it was empty—just like their empty hands! Explain that the tomb was empty because Jesus died and came back to life. Have the children keep their finger puppets for the “Hear and Tell the Bible Story” activity.

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

Pick Up Our Toys

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

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

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

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** pencil

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

Form a circle and say: **I’m going to show you something amazing.** Hold up a pencil. I’ll take this ordinary pencil and turn it into rubber!

Ask: **Do you believe I can do that? Why?** (No, because that’s impossible; I don’t think so because I’ve never seen that happen before.)

Loosely grasp the middle of the pencil with your thumb and index finger. When you move the pencil up and down quickly, the pencil will look like it’s bending. You may want to practice this ahead of time so it comes naturally.

Ask: **Now do you believe I can turn a wood pencil into rubber?** (Yes; no; I don’t know.)

• Do you think it was just a trick? Explain. (Yes, nobody can do it; yes, it’s impossible to do things like that.)

Say: You’re right. It was just a trick called an optical illusion—that means it just looked like a rubber pencil. It would be impossible to turn a wood pencil into rubber. But with God, nothing is impossible! In our story today, something wonderful really did happen, even though it seemed impossible. It was so amazing that people didn’t believe it at first. The amazing thing I’m talking about is that Jesus died and came back to life. Let’s get ready to hear this spectacular story!

### Bible Song and Prayer Time

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

Before class, make surprise cards for the activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the butterfly stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark Luke 24:1-12 in the Bible you’ll be using.

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

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

**SING**

Now it’s time to read God’s book,  
Now it’s time to read God’s book.  
Now it’s time to read God’s book.  
Let’s hear a Bible story.  

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who finds the butterfly stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.
Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week, we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that Jesus died and came back to life.

Let’s say a special prayer now and thank God for sending Jesus to us. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “Thank you, God, for sending Jesus.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead the children in this prayer: God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that Jesus died and came back to life. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, bedsheet, celebration streamers from Option 1, sandpaper crosses from Option 2, finger puppets from Option 3

Before class, make a “tomb” by covering a table with a bedsheet. Be sure the sheet hangs over all four sides.


Let’s see if you remember what’s been happening in our story. When I show you a picture, I’ll say something about the picture. If I say something that’s true, or right, put your finger on your nose. If I say something that’s false, or wrong, put your hand on your head. Then I’ll call on someone to tell me what really happened. Ready? Open the Jesus’ Death and Resurrection book, and show each picture as you read the following statements. Then give children a chance to respond.

• Picture 1 (p. 2): Jesus entered Jerusalem on an ostrich. (False.)
• Picture 2 (p. 4): The people waved flags and placed their pajamas on the road. (False.)
• Picture 3 (p. 6): Jesus had a special supper with his friends. He asked them to remember him. (True.)
• Picture 4 (p. 8): Jesus was weeding in the garden when some people came to help him. (False.)
• Picture 5 (p. 10): Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but the people shouted for his death. (True.)
• Picture 6 (p. 12): Jesus died on a cross to take away our sins so we could be part of God’s special family. (True.)

Return the Jesus’ Death and Resurrection book to your Learning Lab box. Give a streamer from Option 1 and a sandpaper cross from Option 2 to each child. Have children set the crosses and streamers in front of them and wiggle their finger puppets from Option 3 at you.

Say: You’ve remembered our story very well. As you hear today’s story, use your cross, streamer, and finger puppets to help me tell the story. When
you hear the word “cross,” hold up your sandpaper cross. When you hear me say “spices,” sniff the cinnamon on your cross. When I say “followers” or “friends,” wiggle your fingers so your puppets dance. Finally, when you hear me say, “Jesus died and came back to life,” wave your streamers in celebration. Allow children to practice each action and clue word until they’re comfortable. Then read the following story.

After Jesus died on the cross, a man named Joseph took Jesus’ body, wrapped it in a big cloth, and placed it in a special tomb. A tomb is like a deep cave where they put a person’s body. Then helpers rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb to seal it up. It would be very hard to roll the stone away. Let’s pretend this is Jesus’ tomb and it’s all sealed up. Motion to the covered table.

The day after the Sabbath, some women who were followers of Jesus brought spices to the tomb. Jesus’ friends wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on Jesus’ body. As the women came near the tomb, they wondered how they would roll the big stone away. But when they arrived at the tomb...they could hardly believe their eyes! The stone had already been rolled away! When they looked inside (lift one side of the sheet), Jesus’ followers saw that the tomb was empty! Jesus’ body was gone.

Ask: • What do you see in our tomb? (Nothing!)

Say: That’s right, the tomb was empty, just like this one! Jesus wasn’t there! The women didn’t know what to think. Suddenly two men dressed in shining clothes appeared and asked, “Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead? He is not here; he has risen from the dead.” Jesus’ friends remembered that Jesus had said he would rise from the dead—he would come back to life—on the third day. They were so excited! They had to share the exciting news with Jesus’ other followers!

The women ran back to where Jesus’ followers were gathered and told everyone there what they’d seen and heard. Jesus died and came back to life! But that seemed impossible and the men didn’t believe them. So Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. When he got there, he found it just as the women had said. The stone had been rolled away, the tomb was empty, and all that was left there was the cloth that Jesus’ body had been wrapped in. It was true—Jesus died and came back to life.

Have children set their items in front of them. Let’s stop for a bit and review our Bible verse for today. It comes from John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Because God loves us so much, he sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus knew beforehand everything that would happen to him.

Ask: • Why did the women go to the tomb? (To see Jesus; to put spices on his body.)

• What did the angels tell the women? (That Jesus had risen; that Jesus wasn’t there; that Jesus was alive.)

Say: Jesus died and came back to life! That’s wonderful news! The women couldn’t wait to share their excitement with Jesus’ other friends.

Ask: • Who do you like to share good news with? (My family; my best friend.)

• What do people do when they hear good news? (They smile; they say, “that’s great”; they congratulate me.)

• What can we do to celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive? (Have a party; cheer; sing; shout “hooray!”)

This Bible story is featured in the new My First Hands-On Bible™. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6
Say: Jesus is our forever friend. If we believe in Jesus, we will live with him forever. On Easter we celebrate the exciting news that Jesus died and came back to life. Just like the women at the tomb, we can share our happiness with others. Let’s do that now.

Collect the sandpaper crosses, and put them away and out of sight.

**Do the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, streamers from Option 1

Say: Raise your hand if you like to share good news. Pause. Today we’ll play a game where everyone will have a chance to share the best news of all...that Jesus died and came back to life.

Form foursomes and have each group sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child in each group to be the Good News Giver. Say: When I give the signal to begin, the Good News Givers can pop up and run around the circle, waving their celebration streamers. When you get back to your spot, turn to the person on your right and say, “Jesus died and came back to life!” Then that person will be the Good News Giver. We’ll continue until everyone has shared the exciting news.

After the game, say: Now let’s celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with a song.

**SING**

Let’s all sing and praise the Lord.
Ho-ho-hosanna!
Jesus lives forevermore.
Ho-ho-hosanna!

He’s the Son of God,
Who showed his love;
Praise to God in heaven above!

Let’s all sing and praise the Lord.
Ho-ho-hosanna!

(Repeat.)

Turn off the CD player and say: We can be thankful that Jesus died and came back to life. I wonder if Pockets is as happy as we are that Jesus is alive. I wonder if she even knows the good news. Let’s share it with her right now.
Puppets: (Blowing her nose loudly, and then in a wailing voice) OOOHHH! Boo-hoo-hoo!

Teacher: My goodness, Pockets, what’s wrong? I don’t think I’ve ever seen you this sad.

Pockets: Oh, it’s just so…so…so…SAD! (Dabs eyes with tissue.)

Teacher: What’s so sad?

Pockets: Don’t tell me you don’t remember! (Pockets blows her nose.) I can’t believe you don’t remember…Ooohhh!

Teacher: Pockets! Tell me what’s wrong!

Pockets: Well, last week, you told us about soldiers and people who were mean to Jesus and put him on a cross. (Sobbing) I’ve been thinking about that all week, and I’m so sad. Jesus was a kind, gentle man. He loved everybody and did such nice things for people. Why would they want to hurt him? I love Jesus, and I don’t want him to die.

Teacher: You’re right, Pockets. Jesus is God’s Son, and he loves us all very much. But I think the children might have some good news that will cheer you up.

Pockets: (Sniffling) I can’t imagine any news that would make me feel better. The only thing that would help is for Jesus to be alive, but that’s impossible.

Teacher: You think so? Is it possible, boys and girls? (Let the children respond with an enthusiastic “Yes!”) Who can tell Pockets what happened in our story today? (Call on children to tell Pockets about the empty tomb, the angels, and that Peter found only the grave clothes.) 

Jesus died and came back to life. Let’s say that together so Pockets can hear it. (Lead the children in repeating the Bible Point.)

Pockets: You mean he was dead, but then he came back to life? How can that be?

Teacher: Because Jesus is God’s Son and God can do anything! Jesus even said that he would come back to life. We have a song we can sing about Jesus coming back to life. It’s what Jesus said about himself. (Lead children in singing “I Am the Resurrection” (John 11:25a) (track 12) with the CD to the tune of “He’s Got the Whole World.”)
SUPPLIES: 1 plastic straw for each child

Have everyone sit together in a circle. While it is still deflated, show children the **inflatable smiley man** and say: Let’s pretend this inflatable smiley man is God’s Son. We know that Jesus has always been alive in heaven, but long ago God sent him to earth as a man. God made him like us in many ways. Inflate Smiley Man and say: He breathed like us. Move Smiley Man’s legs and say: He walked like us. Move Smiley Man’s arms and say: He even had arms to reach out and give hugs.

Let children take turns passing and hugging Smiley Man as they answer the following questions.

Ask: • **Why did Jesus come to earth?** (God sent him to earth; he came to die on the cross; he came to show us God’s love.)

• **What wonderful things did Jesus do for people while he was on earth?** (He helped people who were sick; he taught about God; he died on the cross for our sins; he rose again.)

Say: That’s right! Jesus died and came back to life. When Jesus died, he took our sins upon himself—yours, mine, and the sins of everyone who will ever live. Give each child a plastic straw and say: In a very special way, God put our sin on Jesus. Let’s take turns blowing some of our air into our pretend Jesus and think about how our sin was a part of God’s Son when he died. Let the children take turns placing their straws over the spout on the back of the inflatable smiley man and blowing a puff of air into it. In between turns the air may leak out, but that’s OK.

**BIBLE POINT**
When everyone has had a turn, fill the toy with air, insert the plug on the back, and say: **Just as it took some of everyone’s breath to fill our inflatable smiley man, it was everyone’s sin that caused Jesus to die on the cross. But he didn’t stay dead, did he?** Show the inflatable smiley man and say: **God breathed life back into Jesus’ body, and Jesus came back to life!**

Invite children to use their straws as you close with the following rhyme.

**Jesus died upon a cross to take our sins away.** *(Hold straws upright.)*
**Jesus’ friends were sad to see their Savior die that day.** *(Have everyone look sad and lay their straws in their laps.)*
**But God breathed life into his Son, and Jesus rose again.** *(Pick up the straws, and blow a puff of air through them.)*
**Now we can have our sins forgiven and call God’s Son our friend.**

Lead the children in a closing prayer, thanking Jesus for being our wonderful Savior, who died and came back to life. Dispose of the straws and return the inflatable smiley man to the Learning Lab.

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

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
**Lively Learning: Rock ’n’ Roll Relay**

Form teams of four, and have each team line up at one end of the room. On your signal, have the first person in line lie down, roll on the ground to the opposite wall, get up, and run back to his or her team. (It won’t be easy to run back because children will be dizzy!) Continue until each team member has rolled to the wall and run back to his or her team. After the relay, remind children that the heavy stone was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb and **Jesus died and came back to life**.

**Make to Take: Spice Freshener**

Set out a bowl filled with spicy tea bags. Let the children smell the sweet spices. Give each child a 6-inch circle of fabric and a bright ribbon. Have each child put one or two tea bags in the center of the fabric then gather the edges together. Help them tie the ribbons around the gathered fabric, making little sachets. Explain that they can place the sachets in closets or drawers to make the things inside smell good.

As the children work, discuss how the women brought fragrant spices to Jesus’ tomb to make it smell sweet. Remind children that when the women got there, they found that **Jesus died and came back to life**.

**Treat to Eat: Resurrection Biscuits**

Set out large marshmallows, refrigerator biscuit dough, a bowl of melted butter, and a bowl of cinnamon sugar. Have children flatten the uncooked biscuits, wrap a large marshmallow in each one, and pinch the edges tightly together. Then instruct children to dip the dough balls in melted margarine or butter and roll them in cinnamon sugar. Bake the biscuits at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes or until they’re lightly browned. When the biscuits are cool, give one to each child. Children will get a big surprise when they bite into the treats! They’re hollow and empty, just like the tomb!

**Story Picture: Jesus Is Alive!**

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Set out glue and small scraps of lace or paper doilies, and let children glue the scraps to the angels. As children are coloring the rest of the handout, remind them that we can rejoice because **Jesus died and came back to life**.
Today I learned...

Verse to Learn

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son (adapted from John 3:16).

Ask Me...

- What did the women find when they got to Jesus’ tomb?
- Who can you share the good news of Jesus’ resurrection with this week?
- How can our family celebrate Jesus’ victory over death?

Family Fun

- Hollow out a raw egg by carefully poking small holes in each end with a pin. Blow the contents into a bowl and save them for cooking. Gently rinse out the egg, and let it dry. Allow your child to decorate the egg with markers, puffy paints, or glitter glue. Point out that the egg is hollow—like the tomb after Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus Is Alive (Luke 24:1-12)