



Life of Christ

Jesus is alive!

Luke 22:47—24:10

Younger Verse

"He has risen from death as He said He would." Matthew 28:5-6 NCV

Older Verse

"Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen from death as He said He would. Matthew 28:5-6 NCV

Lesson Goals

Explain the way to Heaven
Share how much Jesus loves us
Understand why we celebrate Easter

Welcome Time

Greet each child with a hug and tell them how glad you are to see them. Ask them if they have ever gotten to see someone that they hadn't seen in a long time. Ask them to describe how excited they were when they saw the friend again. Explain that today's lesson is about some exciting news!

Bible Study Time

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Remember last week, What happened in our lesson? (Wait for answers) Remember that Jesus was praying in a garden. While He was there, He was arrested even though He had not done anything wrong!

The men who arrested Jesus took Him to be judged. Jesus' friend, Peter, was afraid. He followed Jesus, but did not get close to Him. Peter stayed out in the courtyard while Jesus was inside.

The judge asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. Jesus told him that He was. This angered the judge. The people decided that Jesus must die because they thought He was telling a lie.

Outside, Peter, one of Jesus' friends, was getting restless. A servant girl noticed him and asked if he was with Jesus. Peter was afraid of being killed, so he lied and said that he never knew Jesus. Later another girl saw Peter and told others that he was with Jesus. Peter again denied everything. Finally some people told Peter that they knew he was with Jesus because he had the same accent. Peter again swore that he did not know Jesus. Just after he said this, a rooster crowed. Peter went outside and cried painfully because he remembered that Jesus told him that he would deny knowing Jesus 3 times. Jesus was right!

Early Friday morning, all the leaders took Jesus to the governor named Pilate. He asked Jesus several questions. Jesus told him that he was the King of the Jews and would not answer any other questions. This surprised Pilate.

Each year they freed one prisoner because of a special holiday. Pilate asked the people who they should free; Barabbas-a thief, or Jesus, who is called the Christ.



The crowd cheered for Pilate to free Barabbas! So Pilate asked what to do with Jesus. The crowd yelled for Jesus to be killed on a cross. Can you believe it!

The soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches and shoved it on Jesus' head. They spit on Him, beat Him with a whip, and made fun of Him. After this, they led Him away to be killed.

Outside the city, the soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head which said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two robbers were nailed to crosses beside Jesus, one on the right and the other on the left. After the soldiers nailed Him to the cross, they rolled dice to see who would get His clothes.

Finally after much pain and suffering, Jesus died. When one soldier saw that Jesus was dead, he pierced His side with a spear. Blood and water flowed out of Jesus' body. (Jn. 19:34) The army officer and soldiers guarding Jesus saw everything that happened. They were very frightened and said, "He really was the Son of God!"

That night a rich man asked to bury Jesus. He wrapped Jesus' body in a long linen cloth. They took His body and placed it in a cave that was cut out of a wall of rock. They placed a rock over the entrance and sealed it.

Pilate gave orders for the grave to be guarded. Several soldiers stayed by the grave to make sure no one would steal Jesus' body.

At dawn on Sunday, some women went to the tomb. They were surprised to see the stone rolled away from the entrance. They went in, but did not find Jesus' body.

Suddenly two angels appeared. The angels told the women not to be afraid. Then the angels told them good news! They said that Jesus was alive! The women ran back to tell the others that Jesus was alive.

The ladies were so excited because they knew that Jesus really was God's Son. He had done something that no one else could do. He died and came back to life! They knew that all Jesus said was really true.

Jesus tells us that He is the only way to Heaven. Jesus died for all the wrong things we have done. He tells us that we can go to Heaven by trusting in Jesus and believing in Him. If you would like to learn more or know how to ask Jesus into your life, talk to us.

Learning Activities

Try telling the story again by using props or objects. It is fun and the kids can visually see what is going on!

Memory Verse Activities

Place words or phrases of the verse on slips of paper inside plastic eggs. Hide the eggs and let the kids find them and put the verse in order.

Prayer Time

Say a special prayer of thanks for what Jesus did for us. Invite the kids to come to you if they have questions about how to become a Christian.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Eat some delicious treats, have an Easter egg hunt, or make a cute edible Easter scene. Enjoy your time together.

Planning for April 7th
When is Jesus coming back?
Acts 1:1-11; Mat. 24:36-44

Preschool Lesson
for
Jesus is Alive!

Easter is such a fun day! Do you know why we celebrate Easter? (Wait for responses, it will help you know how much they know about Easter)

Let's look in the Bible and find out what Easter is. (Open Bible and turn to Luke 24).

The first Easter Sunday happened a long, long, long time ago. Some women went to see where Jesus had been buried. People killed Jesus by putting Him on a cross a few days before Sunday. The ladies were going to put perfumes on Jesus' body.

Believe it or not, they got a BIG surprise! On the way to see Jesus' body, there was a rumbling noise like an earthquake (make noise with your feet). When the women got to the grave, they were shocked! (Gasp, like you are shocked) The grave was open and Jesus' body wasn't there!

They did not know what to do.

Suddenly, two angels spoke to the women. The angels told them that Jesus was alive! The women were so excited.

They ran back to tell all Jesus' friends the good news that Jesus wasn't dead any more. He was alive! (make motions like you are running)

The women ran and told everyone the good news. Jesus was alive! That is why we celebrate Easter—because Jesus is alive! We must tell our friends this good news like the women did.

Sing fun songs to help the kids remember the Easter story.



Hands-On Activities
for
Jesus is Alive!

Make a special Easter scene with a paper plate or carve out a hole in a cupcake and put a cookie as the stone in front. When the stone is rolled away—it is empty!

Make the flying helicopter bunny by folding down his ears—what a fun way to make kids smile!

Play the memory game or the floor game to help the children remember what Easter is.

A fun recipe that takes a little planning is the recipe for the Resurrection Cookies. What a treat and they're yummy.

You may have more kids than usual today—be sure to take time to learn everyone's name. Also, this may be the opportunity for someone to trust Christ. Be sensitive.

For preschoolers, bring objects and distinguish whether they are alive or not alive. (Examples may include plants, pictures of people, chair, toys, rocks) Talk about what it means to be alive. Then, share how Jesus came back to life. Explain that we celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive!