



LESSON 4: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Jesus and the Resurrection

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand that Jesus' resurrection shows His power over death and offers us hope and new life.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Romans 10:9

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- A small box or gift bag, 1 per small group
- Slips of paper with "Jesus is alive!" written on them, 1 per child
- Treats or stickers for each child
- Paper plates, 1 per child
- Markers or crayons
- (Optional) Yellow and orange construction paper
- (Optional) Glue sticks
- (Optional) Scissors

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **Have you ever gotten a surprise that made you super happy? What was it, and how did you feel?**

Encourage the kids to share experiences of unexpected surprises, like a birthday present, a visit from a friend, or a fun family outing. Consider sharing your own story with your students.

ACTIVITY: THE "SURPRISE BOX"

Objective: To let kids experience a small surprise that sets the tone for understanding the joy of discovering Jesus' resurrection.

Materials:

- A small box or gift bag for each small group
- Slips of paper with "Jesus is alive!" written on them (one for each child)
- Treats or stickers for each student (set aside so students don't see)

Begin by briefly recapping last week's lesson of Jesus' death on the cross.

Say, **Jesus' Disciples and friends were sad and confused when he died, but everything changed when they learned he was alive again!**

Show students the box.

Say, **This box holds a special surprise, but they can't open it until everyone is ready.**

Build anticipation by telling them they'll find out something that reminds them of the biggest surprise ever—when Jesus rose from the dead! On the count of three, have the kids open their boxes or bags to reveal the treats and the "Jesus is alive!" note.

Ask:

- **How did it feel to open the box?**
- **Were you surprised?** (Give them a moment to share their reactions.)

Ask questions to connect their feelings to how the Disciples might have felt:

- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they heard he was alive?**
- **Do you think they were surprised, like you were when you opened your boxes?**

Today we will learn about some friends of Jesus, who loved him very much, but they were incredibly sad when he died on the cross. Imagine how they must have felt when they discovered Jesus was alive!

They must have been surprised and felt incredible joy and amazement, unlike anything they'd ever experienced!

Easter is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead! This moment came as a surprise to everyone, and it changed the world forever.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Read Matthew 28:1-10 out loud, or have a student summarize the passage for the group.

- **How do you think Mary and Mary Magdalene felt when they found the empty tomb?** (Encourage them to share ideas like being surprised, confused, or excited. Relate it to how they might feel if they got a huge surprise.)
- **Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?**

Say, **The Resurrection means Jesus defeated death and gave us hope that we can be with God forever.**

- **Can you think of other times Jesus did amazing things?** (like healing people)
- **What would you do if you saw Jesus alive after he died?**

Imagine running to tell your friends who were with you and saw Jesus die on the cross three days ago that Jesus is now alive again!

- **Who would you tell first?**
- **How can we remember that Jesus is alive today?**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going through the Gospel Hand with your students. Help them understand the significance of believing in Jesus for salvation; believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins, and believing that Jesus rose from the dead to conquer death and give hope for eternity with him in heaven.

We know that Jesus is alive today because of Jesus' friends who saw him alive and told everyone they could, starting with their friends.

Jesus' resurrection proves He is stronger than death and sin. Because Jesus rose, we can have hope that we too will have eternal life with him if we believe.

Read Romans 10:9, or have a student read out loud for the group.

Say, **The Bible promises that everyone who believes that God raised Jesus from the dead will be saved. We are saved by believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and that God raised him from the dead. Jesus has not conquered sin and death!**

Let's work on making a reminder for ourselves about the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and the promise to save us if we believe in him.



Gospel Hand

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: "THE EMPTY TOMB" CRAFT

Give each child a paper plate, markers, and craft supplies to create a scene of the empty tomb. Have them write "He is risen!" at the top.

Discussion Prompt: As they work, ask, "Why do you think it's important that Jesus came back to life?"

Ask, **How does knowing that Jesus is alive make you feel?**

Think of ways you can share the story of Jesus' resurrection with a friend or family member.

Lead the group in a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, and ask for help in sharing his story.

Encourage kids to tell one person this week that Jesus is alive and what that means to them.



ACTIVITY OPTION 2: "HE IS RISEN" SUNBURST CRAFT

Materials:

- Paper plates (one per child)
- Yellow and orange construction paper (for sun rays)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Give each child a paper plate. This will serve as the background for their sunburst. Have the children cut strips or small triangles from the yellow and orange construction paper to create "sun rays". These can vary in size and shape.

Kids can glue the rays around the outer edge of the plate to make it look like a sunburst, symbolizing the joy and brightness of Jesus' resurrection.

In the center of the plate, have kids write "He is risen!" or "Jesus is alive!" using markers or crayons. Let them decorate their sunburst with stickers, drawings, or glitter to make it as joyful and bright as they like.

Say, **The sunburst represents the light and hope Jesus brought when he rose from the dead. The news of the Resurrection spread like light, and we can share that joy with others.**



Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Ask, **What do you do when you experience something exciting?**

When we get to experience something amazing, we want to tell others! Today in our lesson we will hear about the most incredible thing that has happened in history, and we know about it because other people shared what happened.

Just as Mary ran to tell the Disciples, we are called to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (John 15:13).

Consider a game or activity to help students understand and memorize the memory verse. Take a look at the Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students. Use motions to help them remember the Gospel message.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand