

Large Group



LESSON 4: LARGE 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.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Picture of a sunrise
- Paper plates
- Markers
- Craft supplies
- (Optional) Name tags for skit characters
- (Optional) Music for the closing song

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

SET EXPECTATIONS

Review 3 Rules of Respect and Who Is Jesus?

SONG SUGGESTION

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” by GO FISH

TEACH

Show a picture of a sunrise, and explain how the darkest moments (like the night) can lead to the brightest moments (like morning).

Review the events leading up to Jesus’ death on the cross (his arrest, crucifixion, burial). Remind kids about the sadness and confusion the Disciples felt.

Ask, **How do you think the Disciples and Jesus’ friends felt after he died?**

Choose students to play the following characters. They are to act out the story silently as you read it. Consider giving students name tags with their character on them.

Characters:
Mary Magdalene
Mary
An angel
Jesus
2 Guards

MATTHEW 28:1-10 SKIT AND READING

Place a chair in the center of the room, have the 2 guards stand on either side of the chair, representing the entrance to the tomb.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. (Both Marys are walking around the room and approach the chair.)

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! (The 2 guards start waving their hands trying to keep their balance during the earthquake.) **For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.** (Have the angel come and sit on the chair.) **His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.** (Have 2 guards fall on the ground.)

Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. (The Angel points behind him.) **And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”**



“Who is Jesus”
Call and Response



“Christ the Lord is
Risen Today”
by GO FISH

The women ran quickly from the tomb. (Both Marys walked quickly around the room and circle back to the front of the room.) **They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them.** (Have the student playing Jesus meet the Marys at the front of the room.) **And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.** (Both Mary’s fall on their knees in front of the student playing Jesus.) **Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”**

Dismiss students to their seats.


 WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus’ resurrection proves he is stronger than death and sin. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can have hope that we too will have eternal life with him if we believe.**

Three weeks ago we learned about how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into the world, but God promised to send a Savior. Two weeks ago we read about Abraham taking Isaac to give a sacrifice. Isaac asked his father where the sheep was for the sacrifice, and Abraham told his son Isaac that God will provide the sacrifice.

Jesus is our Savior, the Savior God promised Adam and Eve. He is also our sacrifice needed because Jesus willingly sacrificed his life for us when he died on the cross to overcome sin, then he rose from the dead to overcome death!

The Bible says that everyone who believes in Jesus—that he died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and rose again from the dead, overcoming death and giving us hope for eternal life with him—will be saved.

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

Dismiss students.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

LARGE GROUP GAME: RESURRECTION TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: To remind kids of the joy of new life, symbolizing the moment Jesus rose from the dead.

How to play: Choose one or two kids to be “taggers”. When a player is tagged, they have to sit or lie down as if they’re “in the tomb”. To be “brought back to life”, another player has to come over, say, “Jesus is alive!” and gently touch them. Once “brought back to life”, they can rejoin the game. Play for a set time and switch taggers, if desired.

LARGE GROUP GAME: GOOD NEWS RELAY

Materials: Strips of paper, markers or pens

Object of game: Help kids experience the joy and excitement of spreading good news, mirroring the way the Disciples shared the resurrection news.

How to play: Before the activity, write simple, exciting messages on strips of paper. Examples could include: “You get extra playtime!”, “You get a snack!”, or “You’re getting a prize!” Make sure the messages are positive and something the kids will be excited about.

Split the kids into two or more teams, with each team lining up at one side of the room. The first person in each team runs across the room, picks up a strip of paper, and reads the message. They then run back to their team and whisper the “good news” to the next teammate in line. That teammate runs to the starting point, picks up a new strip of paper, and shares it with the next person in their team. Continue this process until every team member has had a turn to hear and share the “good news.”

After the relay, bring everyone together and discuss:

- How did it feel to hear good news?
- How did it feel to share good news?
- Was there excitement as you passed the message?

Bible story connection: On Easter, Jesus’ followers discovered the best news ever: He is alive! Just like in the relay, they couldn’t wait to share it with others. We can share this amazing news, too, because it brings joy and hope to everyone who hears it.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Strips of paper
- Markers or pens
- Open space for running
- Plastic eggs or small bags with paper messages inside (each should say “Jesus is alive!”)
- Music player with upbeat worship songs

LARGE GROUP GAME: RUN AND TELL!

Materials: Open space for running, plastic eggs or small bags with paper messages inside (each should say "Jesus is alive!")

Object of game: To simulate the excitement of Mary and Mary Magdalene when they ran to tell the Disciples that Jesus had risen.

How to play: Divide the group into pairs. Place the eggs or bags on one side of the room, and have each pair race to grab one and bring it back to the starting point. When they open it, they should shout together, "Jesus is alive!"

Bible story connection: It is exciting to share good news about Jesus! How does it feel when you have really good news to share?

LARGE GROUP GAME: ALIVE FREEZE DANCE

Materials: Music player with upbeat worship songs

Object of game: To celebrate and reinforce the joy of Jesus' resurrection in a fun and lively way.

How to play: Play an upbeat song, and have the kids dance around with lots of energy. At random intervals, pause the music and have the kids "freeze". When they freeze, shout, "Jesus is alive!" and encourage the kids to shout it back.

Resume the music and continue playing. Each time they freeze, you can have them make different joyful poses, like "praise hands" or jumping for joy.

Tip: You could turn this into an elimination game, where those who don't freeze fast enough are out until the last one remains. Or keep everyone involved for maximum fun!



LESSON 4: PRIMARY 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



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.
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QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
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Connect



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

Small Group Session 1

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PRAY TOGETHER

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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

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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

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Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

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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

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

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

John 15:13, NLT

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