

EASTER

LIFE POINT

Jesus is alive!

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 26:36–28:10

UNIT VERSE:

Preschool- God loved us and sent His Son. 1 John 4:10

Elementary- Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Parents, today's Bible story is about Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of people and rose from the grave three days later. Because Jesus paid our sin debt, He made a way for anyone who believes in Him to have a right relationship with God. Talk to your child about Jesus' resurrection. Ask how they would feel if they had been one of the disciples or if they had been one of the women at the tomb. Say a prayer, thanking God that Jesus took the punishment for our sins.

We know that often preschoolers can't comprehend death so feel free to teach them the story of Easter on their level. Below, we have provided two options for you.

Jesus IS Alive FOR PRESCHOOLERS

—Based on Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus had died on a cross and had been buried in a tomb. Three days later, Mary and Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They were very sad because Jesus had died.

As they got near the tomb, the ground began to shake. An angel came from heaven. He rolled back the stone in front of the tomb.

The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. I have good news! He is not here. He is alive!"

The angel told the women to look in the tomb. It was empty! Then the angel told the women to go and tell the disciples (Jesus' helpers) that Jesus is alive!

The women were happy. They ran to find the disciples so they could tell them the good news.

Suddenly, they saw Jesus! The two women ran to Jesus and worshiped Him.

Jesus said, "Go and tell My disciples to go to Galilee. They will see Me there." The women ran to tell the disciples the good news.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who went to the tomb where Jesus was buried? (Mary and Mary Magdalene)
- What did the angel say? (Don't be afraid...I have good news)
- What good news did the women want to tell the disciples? (Jesus is alive!)
- What did the women do when they saw Jesus? (they worshiped Him)

Crucifixion and Resurrection FOR ELEMENTARY

Jesus took His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. He knew that He was about to die. The disciples fell asleep, but Jesus prayed, "Father, please let this pass from Me. Not My will but Your will be done." He woke the disciples and said, "Get up. My betrayer is coming."

Suddenly, Judas arrived. A large crowd carrying swords and clubs was with him. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Jesus was taken to the high priest, Caiaphas, who accused Jesus of claiming to be God, a crime deserving death. The leaders mocked Jesus, and witnesses told lies about Him. The crowd beat Him.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, waited outside. "You were with Jesus," some people said. Three times Peter said that he did not know Jesus.

The leaders sent Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Pilate could not find that Jesus had done anything wrong, so Pilate offered the people a choice: set Jesus free or free Barabbas, a well-known criminal. The people cried to free Barabbas. When Pilate asked the crowd what to do with Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate agreed to put Jesus to death. Soldiers beat Jesus, put a robe on Him, and placed a crown of sharp thorns on His head. They nailed Jesus to a cross. From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out to God before He died. Suddenly, there was an earthquake. One of the men near the cross said, "This man really was God's Son!"

Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb, and men stood guard so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

On the third day Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb. Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook, and an angel came down from heaven and rolled back the stone from the tomb. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He has risen, just as He promised."

As the women ran to tell the disciples the good news, they heard a man say, "Good morning." It was Jesus! The women knelt and worshiped Him. Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell the disciples to go to Galilee, and they will see Me there."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS red- elementary only, black- both

- Who was with Jesus at Gethsemane when he was arrested? (the disciples)
- Which disciple betrayed Jesus? (Judas)
- True or False: Jesus was put on trial. (true)
- Who offered to bury Jesus in a tomb after He was crucified? (a rich man named Joseph)
- After a large stone was rolled over the entrance of the tomb, who guarded the tomb? (soldiers)
- Who went to the tomb where Jesus was buried? (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary)
- What did Jesus say to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary? (Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee.)
- Why did Jesus take punishment He didn't deserve? (Because of His great love for us, He took the punishment for our sins.)

BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

*SING TOGETHER

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

Jesus was not in the tomb,

In the tomb, in the tomb.

Jesus was not in the tomb

Because He is alive.

*HE IS RISEN color sheet

Things you need: "He is Risen" coloring sheet and crayons

While your child is coloring, review the story from today. Encourage them to share in the excitement that Jesus didn't stay in the tomb, He's Alive!!

*EXAMINE ROCKS

Things you need: Rocks of different sizes, magnifying glasses, paper, crayons

Guide the children to compare the rocks. Ask questions like “Which one is biggest? Which one is longest?

Which one is the darkest color?” Talk about how heavy a rock as big as the door to your room would be.

Comment that the rock in front of Jesus’ tomb was so big that it probably took several men to move it. Remind your child that the women were surprised that the rock was rolled away!

Suggest they trace rocks or place paper on the rocks and rub to record textures. Another option if your rocks are large enough, is to paint on them and leave them around town for people to find. Consider writing messages of God's love on the rocks.

*BUILD A CHURCH

Things you need: blocks

Encourage your child to build a church with blocks. Show them pictures of your church and other churches on your phone or tablet. Comment that churches may look different but they are all places that we go to learn about Jesus. Share with them that people in your church know that Jesus is alive and that we go to church to learn about Jesus and how to share His love with other people

*“GET THE FACTS” Activity

What you need: “Life of Jesus Fact Cards”, Note Cards, pencils, scissors

What you do: Cut apart the cards and place the fact cards around the room

****For early readers, have your child collect the cards instead of making notes**

Give your child a pencil and note card.

Explain to your child that they are a detective and their first assignment is to find fact cards about the life of Jesus that have been placed around the room. They are to walk around the room and gather information about the life of Jesus, making notes about what they discover.

Give time for the information to be gathered. Then call your detective(s) to return with their notes.

Ask your child to name the facts they discovered about the life of Jesus. Take a moment to quickly read and discuss each fact.

Explain that Jesus is the Messiah and He did everything God asked Him to do, but some leaders in Jerusalem were not happy with the things Jesus was saying and doing. In today’s story, they saw how Jesus took the punishment for people’s sins.

*PRAY

Take time together as a family, thanking God for the gift of His Son, Jesus. Ask God to give your family everything they need to go and tell others about Him.





HE IS RISEN!!

Jesus

He was born in Bethlehem.

Jesus

Simeon and Anna waited to meet Him.

Jesus

He grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people.

Jesus

He taught the leaders in the temple.

Jesus

He taught people to live for God.

Jesus

He taught people to forgive.

Jesus

He told stories called parables to teach lessons.

Jesus

He worshiped God.

Jesus

He is God's Son.

Jesus

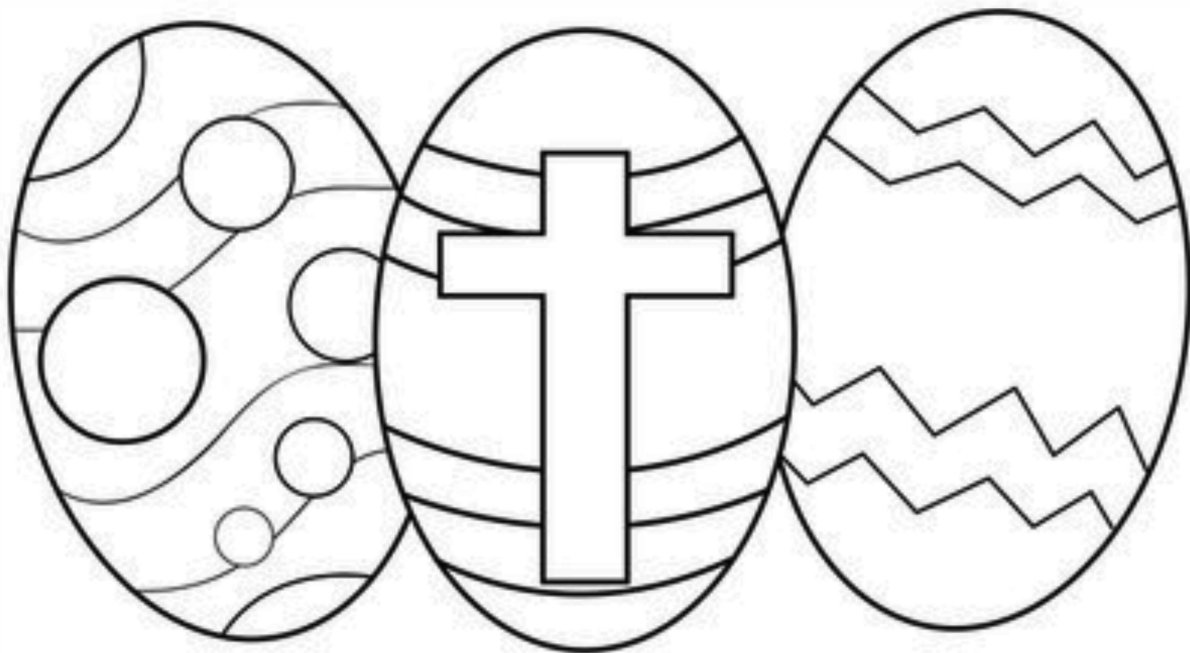
He is the Messiah.

Jesus

He took the punishment for people's sins.

Jesus

He performed miracles.



Jesus Is Alive!