

Overview

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: John 19:16–20:18
- In This Passage: Jesus dies on the cross, which is the punishment for a criminal. Jesus had never done anything wrong, but he takes the punishment for our sins. Jesus is buried in a tomb, but three days after his death, his friends find his tomb empty! Then Jesus—alive—shows up and talks to his friend Mary!
- Bible Point: Jesus died for us.
- Summary Verse: “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus died for us.* This lesson is the most critical piece of Christianity. Don't assume your kids know and understand it. Churched kids, who've heard about it, may not understand why Jesus had to die, and you may have some visitors who haven't heard much—if anything—about Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Think About: What's one thing you can do this Easter to thank Jesus for his death and resurrection?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to prepare your kids' hearts to believe in him and receive his gift of salvation.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Paper & writing utensils

Easy Prep

- Draw the outline of a large cross.

Introduce the Lesson

Today we're going to learn that Jesus died for us. Jesus died on a cross because he loves *you* so much!

- Distribute a marker, crayon, or pencil to each family member & have them write their names on the cross.

Share

- Take turns sharing about your favorite kind of Easter candy.

Summarize

Open a Bible to John 19, and say: **Easter candy, Easter egg hunts, and Easter baskets are all really fun. But Easter isn't about those things; Easter is about Jesus! Jesus died for you and then came back to life. Let's dig in to the Bible to find out more. The Bible is a very special book that God gave us. One of the ways God talks to us is through the Bible. God is ready to talk to you right now. Let's talk with him.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for dying for us.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Easter (John 19:16–20:18)

Watch Mrs. Jamie's Easter lesson video on the church webpage , or ask her to send you a link on Google Drive.

(<https://faithwesleyanchurch.org/>)

jcw79@yahoo.com 812-241-4145

Review the Clues

Say: **Wow! We've learned a lot about what happened here! So let's see if we can put all the clues together and figure out everything that happened.**

Have kids review the clues they found and retell the story.

Say: **It's clear what happened here. Jesus died, but more importantly, Jesus died for us. We all deserve to be away from God forever because we've all done wrong things. When Jesus died, he took *our* punishment for those wrong things. Jesus died so that God could forgive us and we can be with him.**

And the best news is, Jesus didn't stay dead! We've seen plenty of evidence that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive!



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

[10 min]

He's Alive!

Supplies

- "He's Alive!" teaching video (watch or download [here or https://vimeo.com/329189106](https://vimeo.com/329189106))

Discuss and Watch "He's Alive!"

Say: **We're learning that Jesus died for us.**

Ask: • **What do you think it smelled like in Jesus' tomb?**

• **Peter and John raced to the tomb after Jesus came back to life. Why do you think John won?**

• **What do you think Jesus' friends thought or said when they found his empty tomb?**

Say: **Let's see this Bible story as told by some kids like you! We'll see how they answered those questions.**

Watch "He's Alive!"

Ask: • **Which parts of this story do you think show the way it really happened? Which parts were just kids' imagination?**

Say: **Jesus died for us. But he didn't stay dead! While some of the details of Jesus' resurrection are up to our imagination, the important thing is that Jesus is alive! We know for sure that he came back to life!**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Get There First!

Supplies

- Handkerchief or another object

Play a Version of Steal the Bacon

Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus' friends raced to the tomb to see if Jesus' body was there. John got there first. Let's play a game where we'll race to see who can get something first.**

- Designate an area & have kids spread out around the outside of it. Place the handkerchief in the middle of the area.
- Say "Go!" All kids will race to see who can get to the handkerchief first.
- The player who grabs the handkerchief will try to run back to his or her spot without getting tagged by the other players. The round is over if the player gets back to his or her spot or gets tagged.
- Play again, placing younger kids closer to the handkerchief to give them a head start.

Talk About It

Say: **Jesus' friends raced to the empty tomb, but it wasn't really important who got there first. The important thing was that Jesus was alive!**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you raced or hurried to see something amazing.**

Say: **Because God loves us all so much, Jesus died for us. But the amazing thing is that he didn't stay dead. Jesus came back to life and gives *us* new life, too.**



CRAFT

[20 min]

Jumping Jesus!

Supplies

- "Jesus Figure" handout, printed on card stock (1 for every 10 kids) (download [here](#))
- "Jumping Jesus Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- markers
- scissors
- rubber bands

- pins
- pencils
- clear packing tape
- roughly half-gallon milk or orange juice cartons (1 for approximately every 6 kids)
- stickers

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the Jesus figures on the handout.
- Slice the milk carton into 1-inch squares as shown below.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- You can use any *square* cardboard cartons for this craft, but rectangular ones such as broth containers won't work.



Make Jumping Jesus Figures

Show kids the sample craft you made. Lay it flat as you explain that Jesus died, and then exclaim that he came back to life as the figure pops up.

Give each child a Jesus figure and a square from the carton. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow the directions on the “Jumping Jesus Instructions” handout to make Jumping Jesus figures.

- Color the Jesus figure.
- Use a pin to poke a hole in two opposite corners of your carton square. (Older kids can help younger ones with this step.)
- Use a pencil to make the hole big enough to poke a rubber band through.
- Cut a rubber band and thread it through both holes. (Older kids can help younger kids with this step.)
- Tape the rubber band in place on the outside of the carton square. You'll want about 2 inches stretching in between the two corners.
- Fold your Jesus figure in half, and tape it over a corner that *doesn't* have a rubber band poked through it.
- Decorate the milk carton with stickers.

Make Jumping Jesus Figures

- Stretch your Jumping Jesus toy so that the Jesus figure lies flat on top while the two corners with the rubber band are stretched as far apart as possible.
- Release the toy and watch Jesus spring to life!

Talk About It

Ask: • **What do you think it *really* looked like when Jesus came back to life?**

• **How could you use this toy to share the good news of Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus died for us, but he came back to life! He's alive today, and he wants to be friends with everyone! You can share the good news that Jesus is alive by showing people your fun jumping toy!**



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Sin Is Erased

Supplies

- permanent markers (1 per child)
- dry-erase markers (1 for every 2 kids)
- whiteboard
- dry-erase erasers or paper towels (several to share)

Try to Erase Permanent Marker

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus died for us to take the punishment for *our* sins. Jesus made a way for our sins to be erased. Let's see what it would be like to try to erase our sins all on our own.**

- Give each child a permanent marker (or you can share).
- Allow time for each child to write his or her name and the word "sin" just below it on the whiteboard. Younger kids can just make marks.
- Then have kids take turns trying to erase their "sin" with erasers or paper towels.
- You can even allow kids time to brainstorm and try ideas for being able to erase the "sin," such as putting a little bit of water on the eraser or using a pencil eraser.

Say: **It looks like all this sin is permanent and there's nothing any of us can do about it. That's true about our actual sins, too. We can't erase or undo our sins. But *Jesus* can wipe them away.**

Erase Permanent Marker With Dry-Erase Markers

- Distribute the dry-erase markers, and allow time for kids to cover the "sins" they wrote just below their names with a solid coat of dry-erase marker.
- Right after covering the permanent marker ink in dry-erase marker, each person should immediately use a dry-erase eraser or paper towel to wipe away the ink. Both the permanent marker and the dry-erase marker will come off the board.
- For the time being, allow kids' names to remain on the board.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you think when it looked like we'd ruined the board with permanent markers?**

• **How did you feel when you saw that the dry-erase marker could make the "sin" disappear?**

Say: **There was no wiping the "sin" away on our own. We needed the help of the dry-erase marker to dissolve and lift the permanent marker ink. We need Jesus. When Jesus died for us, he wiped away our sins. Once the sin is gone, what's left is Jesus' love for us—and his love is permanent.**

Read aloud each person's name from the board and say: [Name], **Jesus loves you.** After everyone has left for the day, you can then clean all the names from the board.