



TEACHER'S GUIDE

PREKINDERGARTEN-KINDERGARTEN
YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School



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*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)



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The Empty Tomb

Mt 27:57–28:8; **Mk** 15:42–16:8; **Lk** 23:50–24:8; **Jn** 19:31–42

Looking Back at Lesson 11

Jesus Is Put on the Cross

Matthew 27:32–44; Mark 15:21–32; Luke 23:26–43

Aim: Why did Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die?

Truth: Jesus wanted to save all people from their sins.

Application: God sent his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to save sinners.

Response: We thank Jesus for suffering pain and death on a cross to save us.

Lesson Summary: After Pilate's soldiers led Jesus out of the city, they nailed him to a cross. Jesus asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him, and he brought to faith one of the robbers being crucified. Jesus endured terrible pain as he willingly suffered and died to take away all sins.

Memory Treasure: 1 Timothy 1:15



What good news did an angel tell some women early Easter morning?



An angel told the women the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Application: Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.

Response: We trust Jesus' promise to give us life in heaven.

Lesson Summary: On Good Friday, Jesus died for the sins of all people. Later that day, Joseph and Nicodemus asked Pilate for Jesus' body so they could bury it. That same day, to please Jesus' enemies, Pilate sent soldiers to guard the grave. On Easter morning, some women came to the grave and heard an angel's good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.



John 11:25



resurrection—to come back to life after dying

hallelujah—praise the Lord

Note: Both *tomb* and *grave* can refer to burial places. By using both terms, you'll help children better understand the words when they are used in church services.



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 944–981; The People's Bible: Albrecht, *Matthew*, pages 430–439; Wicke, *Mark*, pages 229–234; Prange, *Luke*, pages 253–255; Baumler, *John*, pages 253–255.



Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent Jesus to live, die, and rise for me. Help my students and me always trust in your promise to give us life in heaven. How happy we will be, living there with you! Amen.



WORSHIP

Teach the children their response, and then join in the responsive prayer.

Teacher: Jesus lived

Children: For me.

T: Jesus died

C: For me.

T: Jesus rose

C: For me.

T: Thank you, Jesus! Amen.



Have the children identify each of the following either as an example of good news or bad news:

- A boy scored a goal during his soccer game. *[Good news.]*
- A girl spilled juice on a carpet. *[Bad news.]*
- A family found their missing dog. *[Good news.]*

Optional: Let the children tell how it feels to receive good news.



Today we will hear about really good news that came in a very special way. **We will learn what good news an angel told some women early Easter morning.**

Alternate Lesson Plan



Begin by singing the refrain of “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks” (hymn 154).



Show an angel figure or a picture of an angel.

Have the children identify the figure (picture). Then have volunteers tell things they know about angels. *[Angels sometimes have wings; appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born; are messengers from God; protect us.]*



Long ago God sometimes sent angels to tell people important news. **In our Bible lesson, we will learn what good news an angel told some women early Easter morning.**

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Cut apart six pictures made from **Copy Masters 1 and 2**. Attach them in order to a

sheet of **poster board** to make a story picture chart. Attach a flap (sheet of **paper**) to the top of each picture, covering it. At the appropriate time as you tell the story, lift each flap to show the picture under it. *Variation:* Instead of making a story chart, simply show the pictures as you tell the corresponding parts of the story.



As you tell the story, use **play dough** to form the following objects: cross, spear, grave

(tomb, cave). For the grave, form one large and one small ball of play dough. Make the large one into a cave. Use the small ball as a stone to close the opening. Move the stone away from the entrance to show the empty tomb. *Variations:* (1) Give the children play dough so they can form the objects with you. (2) When telling about the women taking spices to the grave, pass around some **dried spices** for the children to smell.



Have the boys sit in one group and the girls in another. Have specific groups do the following as you tell the story:

- Boys: Pretend to carry someone.
- Girls: Hold hands above eyes and watch (women watching the burial).
- Boys: Stand like soldiers on guard duty.
- Boys: Shake like an earthquake.
- Girls: Walk in place (women walking to tomb).
- Girls: Run in place (women going to tell disciples that Jesus had risen).

Jesus was put **on a cross** on a **Friday morning**. Later that **afternoon**, he **died**. Jesus had **finished his work** of **saving sinners**.

The **soldiers checked** to see that Jesus was **dead**. One of them stuck a **spear** into **Jesus' side**. Yes, they were **sure** he was **dead**.

Later that day a man named **Joseph** came to Pilate. Joseph **believed in Jesus** as the promised Savior. Joseph **asked Pilate**, "**May I take the dead body of Jesus** down from the cross and **bury** it?" **Pilate told Joseph** that he **could have** Jesus' dead **body**.

Nicodemus, another man who **believed in Jesus**, came to **help Joseph**. **Together** they **took Jesus' body down** from the cross. They **wrapped his body** in **cloth** and **placed** it in a grave. The grave was a **cave cut out of rock**. The men rolled a **very large stone** in **front** of the **doorway** to the cave. Then they **went home**.

Some **women who loved Jesus** **watched** to see where the two men buried him. The women **wanted to add nice smelling spices** to the body. But it was **late**. So the women said, "We will **come back on Sunday**."

The **enemies** of Jesus **knew** that he was **dead**, but still they were **worried**. They **went to Pilate** and said, "Sir, we **remember** something **that Jesus said** while he was still alive. Jesus said, 'I will **come back to life after three days**.' Pilate, we want you to **put soldiers** at the **grave** to **guard** it. We **do not want someone** to come and **take Jesus' body** and then **say**, 'He is **alive!**'" Pilate said the **enemies** could **have soldiers guard** the place where Jesus was buried.

But something **very special happened** on the **third day**. **Early Sunday morning** Jesus **came back to life!** He **left the grave**, even though it was **still closed** and the **large stone** was in **front of the doorway**.

Other special things happened that first Easter morning. **Suddenly** the **earth shook** and **God sent** an **angel** to **roll the stone away** from the empty grave. This **showed** that **Jesus was already alive and gone**. Jesus **had risen!**

That **same morning** some **women** were on the **way to the grave** to finish putting spices with Jesus' dead body. One of women was **Mary Magdalene**. The women **wondered**, "**Who will roll** that big, heavy **stone away** from the opening to the grave?" They did **not know** that **Jesus had risen**.

When the women looked up, they **saw** that the **stone** had **already** been **rolled away**. When **Mary saw** that the **stone** had been **moved**, she did **not go any farther**. She turned and **ran to find the disciples**. She wanted to **tell** them **what she had seen**.

But the **other women** went up to the **open grave** and **walked into** it. There they **saw** an **angel** dressed in a **shining, white robe**. The women were **afraid**.

But the angel said, "**Don't be afraid**. You are **looking for Jesus**. He is **not here!** He is **alive!** Now **go quickly** and **tell his disciples**." So the women **ran** into town to **share** the **good news**. Jesus was **no longer dead**. He had **risen!**



discuss

You need the **story chart** or the **story pictures** from the first option under **Learn** (Alternate).

Do Have children answer each of the following questions by finding and showing the correct picture. (Some pictures will not be used.)

- What did Jesus let happen on a Friday long ago so that he could take away our sins? [*Jesus on a cross.*]
- What did Joseph and Nicodemus do with Jesus' dead body? [*Men carrying Jesus' body.*]
- Who came to Jesus' grave on the first Easter morning? [*Group of women.*]
- Whom did the women see when they went inside the open grave? [*Angel.*]



Wear Chatter on your nonwriting hand. You need **Copy Master 3** and will draw on the board.

Do Have Chatter greet the children and then observe quietly as you make each of the following sketches and ask the corresponding questions.

- Cross: What happened to Jesus on Good Friday? [*He died on a cross to take away our sins.*]
- Grave (tomb) with stone over entrance: What happened to Jesus' dead body? [*Joseph and Nicodemus buried it.*] What did the men use to close the grave? [*A large stone.*]
- An angel: Whom did the women see when they came to Jesus' grave? [*An angel.*] What good news did the angel tell them? [*Jesus is alive.*]

Say Those women heard very good news early that first Easter morning. Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he said he would!

Do Have Chatter blurt out, "Jesus *knew* he would rise from the dead? How could he know that?" Then continue with the puppet skit on the copy master.



Show a student lesson picture.

Ask What good news did an angel tell some women who came to Jesus' grave? [*Jesus is alive!*]

Say Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.

Do Say the memory treasure. Then lead the children in saying it.

Say We trust Jesus' promise to give us life in [*heaven*].

Put a birthday box in your classroom. Fill it with safe, inexpensive items that children like: colorful pencils and markers, bookmarks, book bag dangles, stickers, games, small puzzles, stuffed animals, toys, and other items. Bring out the box for each birthday. Sing to the birthday child, and have him or her choose an item from the birthday box.

Teaching tip

Say The angel told the women the wonderful news that Jesus was alive. He had risen from the dead, just as he said he would.

Jesus said that he is the Resurrection and the Life. The word *resurrection* means “to come back to life after being dead.”

Ask Whose resurrection happened on the first Easter Sunday morning? [*Jesus' resurrection.*]

Say Jesus, God's Son, is the Resurrection and the Life. He came back to life after being dead.

Do Say the memory treasure for and then with the children.

Say Jesus promises to raise us from the dead and give us life in heaven with him. Listen to a story that reminds us not to worry about death.

Do Read the following story:

On the way to school one morning, Steven asked, “Dad, do you ever worry that Uncle Mark might die while he's in the army in a faraway country?”

Say Before I tell you what Dad said, pretend that you are Dad.

Ask What would you say to Steven. [*Allow responses.*]

Say Dad said, “Yes, but when I feel myself starting to worry, I try to think about Jesus and his promise of life in heaven. Jesus kept his word and rose from the dead, so he will certainly keep his promise to give us—and Uncle Mark—life in heaven.” Dad was right. We know Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would, so we trust his promise to give us life in heaven.

CLOSE

Say Listen as I sing about the good news an angel told the women who went to Jesus' grave.

Do Sing the following words to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

An angel rolled the stone away to show the grave was empty.
Jesus was not there; Jesus was not there; Jesus was not there.
He rose on Easter morning!

Ask What did Jesus do on Easter morning, just as he said he would? [*He rose; he came back to life.*]

What do you trust Jesus will do for you someday? [*Raise me to life and take me to heaven.*]

Do *Pray:* Dear Jesus, you are the powerful Son of God! Thank you

for rising from the dead just as you said you would. Help us always trust your promise to give us life in heaven. Amen.



at Home

Parent Idea: When doing the first student lesson activity, your child could either draw a large stone or could attach a stone made from paper, cardboard, or craft foam. Sing the song included in that activity so your child is ready to sing it with us during our next class.

Note: Sometime during your next class, sing the song from **Close**.



John 11:25

Do Teach the children their response, and then close with the following litany. Explain that *hallelujah* means “Praise the Lord.”

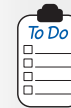
Teacher: Jesus lived and never sinned.

Children: Thank you, Jesus. Hallelujah!

T: Jesus suffered and died on a cross. (response)

T: Jesus came back to life. (response)

T: Jesus will give us life in heaven. (response)



Parent Idea: What household object will your family use as the reporter’s microphone for the second student lesson activity? We look forward to hearing each family’s answer to that question!

OPTIONAL

mid-
week
Lesson

- Begin with **Activity 3** (Memory Treasure Song) under **Lesson Activities**.
- Use **Activity 1** (Story Cube) under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
- Color and cut out pictures made from **Copy Master 4**. Show the picture of the caterpillar, and have the children tell what it is. Attach the picture to the **board**. To the right of that picture, attach the picture of the chrysalis (a case that turns into a butterfly; moths form inside cocoons). Explain that the caterpillar forms a chrysalis and rests until it turns into a butterfly. Attach the butterfly picture next to the chrysalis picture, and ask where the butterfly came from. [*The caterpillar changed into the butterfly.*] Below the caterpillar picture, attach the picture of dead Jesus. Attach the picture of the tomb to the right of the picture of Jesus and below the picture of the chrysalis. Ask what happened to Jesus' body after he died on a cross. [*Two men buried it in a grave.*] Say that the caterpillar lying inside the chrysalis (*point to chrysalis picture*) reminds us of Jesus lying dead in the grave. Finally, attach the resurrection picture next to the tomb picture and below the butterfly picture. Ask what happened to Jesus early on the first Easter morning. [*He rose from the dead.*] Say that the butterfly coming out of the chrysalis reminds us of Jesus rising from the dead and coming out of the grave. Jesus did not need an opening in the grave in order to get out. He just appeared outside the grave. Jesus is the only one with the power to make himself come back to life.

Suggestions: (1) Have each child cut out pictures made from **Copy Master 4**, place the pictures on a large sheet of **paper** in the same arrangement as on the board, and then glue down the pictures. (2) Do **Activity 4** (Resurrection Project) under **Lesson Activities**.

- *Pray:* Dear Jesus, thank you for rising from the dead just as you said you would. Help us always trust in you and your promise to give us life in heaven. We pray in your name. Amen.
- Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

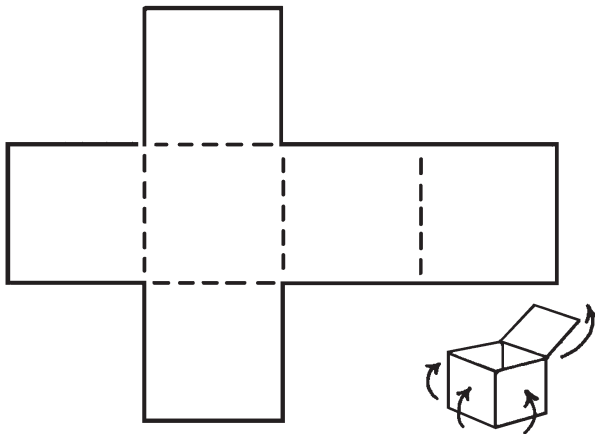
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Story Cube

Purpose: To use pictures to review the story.

Procedure: Make a cube-shaped box (with sides about 6-inches square) from paper as shown in the following diagram, or use a small tissue box. Glue pictures made from **Copy Masters 1** and **2** to the sides of the cube or box. Have a child roll the story picture cube and tell about the part of the story depicted in the picture that lands on top. Repeat until several (all) of the children have had turns.



Easter Morning Dramatization

Purpose: To review part of the story by acting it out.

Procedure: Make a cave by placing a blanket over some chairs or a card table. Place a pillow at the opening for the stone. Place white cloth inside for Jesus' burial cloths. Choose children to portray the angel, the soldiers, Mary Magdalene, and other women. Have those children act out the story as you or a child narrates. *Variation:* For the tomb, use a large box with a hole cut in the side.

Life in Heaven

Purpose: To discuss Jesus' gift of life in heaven.

Procedure: Before class, draw a door on a piece of paper. Cut around the top, bottom, and one side so that the door can open and close. During class, remind the children that Jesus promises to give believers life in heaven. Then show the paper door, and have a child open and close it. Say that with a door, we can let someone in (*open the door*) or keep someone out. (*Close the door.*) Then hold the paper door closed while having the children pretend they are standing at the door of heaven. Say that on our own, we sinners can do nothing to open that door. The only way into heaven is Jesus. He died on a cross to forgive our sins. He opens the door (*open the paper door*) and lets us into heaven.

3. Music

Memory Treasure Song

Purpose: To sing about the memory treasure.

Procedure: Sing the following words to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

I am the resurrection and the life.
I am the resurrection and the life.
I am the resurrection and the life.
That's what Jesus says.

Hallelujah!

Purpose: To praise Jesus for taking away our sins and giving us eternal life.

Procedure: Explain that the word *hallelujah* means “Praise the Lord.” Then teach the following words to the tune of “London Bridge.”


Hallelujah! Easter Day, Easter Day, Easter Day!
All our sins are washed away,
Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Jesus lives, Jesus lives, Jesus lives!
Now eternal life he gives,
Hallelujah!

Other Songs

Purpose: To sing other songs related to the lesson.

Procedure: Teach one or both of the following songs:

- “My Sins Have Been 4-given”  from **Copy Masters 5.1** and **5.2**.
- “Love in a Box” from *Children’s Garden of Songs* or *Little Ones Sing Praise* (Concordia Publishing House). *Suggestion:* Make the following props out of construction paper or poster board: box, bag, jar, tomb, and heart. Laminate them if possible. Cut an opening in the middle of each prop. Have the children use a bubble pipe and blow bubbles through the opening in the prop that goes with each stanza. The teacher or a child can hold the prop while another child blows the bubbles.

4. Art

Butterflies

Purpose: To make a familiar symbol of Easter.

Procedure: Explain that people often display butterfly decorations at Easter. A butterfly coming out of a chrysalis (not a cocoon) is a picture of Jesus rising from the dead. Here are ways to make butterflies. Try one or more.

- Have each child decorate and cut out a butterfly made from **Copy Master 6**.
- Have each child trace both feet on construction paper and cut out the tracings. The child can either glue them to another piece of paper in the shape of a butterfly and add a large craft stick at the center for the body or just glue the tracings to a craft stick and fold up the wings to look like a butterfly in flight. The children can decorate their butterflies with glitter, sequins, and other craft items.
- Give each child an 8-inch square of colored tissue paper. Have each child form a butterfly’s body by bunching up the middle of the tissue paper and wrapping a pipe cleaner around it. Add a second pipe cleaner for the antennae. *Suggestion:* Attach the completed butterflies to a bulletin board entitled “Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life!”

Resurrection Project

Purpose: To make a project that celebrates Jesus’ resurrection.

Procedure: Explain that we sometimes use a caterpillar changing into a butterfly as a picture of Jesus rising from the dead. (See **Optional Midweek Lesson** for an explanation.) Then have the children make caterpillars from egg cartons. Have each child use markers to color a row of six cups cut from a cardboard egg carton. Have the children add features such as pipe cleaner antennae and wiggly eyes.

Place each caterpillar inside its own crumpled, brown paper lunch bag “chrysalis.” Compare a caterpillar lying in a chrysalis to Jesus’ dead body lying in a grave.

During your next class, have each child make a butterfly. Have the children remove their caterpillars from their sacks and place their butterflies near the open ends. The new life of a butterfly is nice, but it is nothing compared to

Jesus coming back to life and promising us new life in heaven.

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

Purpose: To use an action rhyme about Jesus saving us and giving us life in heaven.

Procedure: Say the following rhyme, and have the children do the actions:

Jesus loves me very much. (*hug self*)
 For me his life he gave. (*point to self*)
 He died upon a wooden cross;
 (*form cross with arms*)
 Was buried in a cave. (*crouch down, put head
 down, and cover with arms*)
 Then Easter came; oh, happy day!
 (*on “oh, happy day!” jump straight up*)
 My Jesus is alive. (*jump with arms outstretched*)
 And someday he will take me up (*point up*)
 To heav’n with him—alive!
 (*jump again with arms outstretched*)

Action Rhyme

Purpose: To learn an action rhyme about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Procedure: Say the following words, and have the children join in doing the actions. Repeat.

This is Jesus straight and tall.
 (*hold up pointer finger*)
 His heart is full of life for all. (*curl fingers down
 and touch tips, touch thumbs to make heart*)
 This is the cross on which he died.
 (*make cross with index fingers*)
 These are his friends who cried and cried.
 (*hold up all fingers*)
 Here is the tomb where Jesus lay.
 (*cup hands together to make tomb*)
 These are two soldiers, both afraid.
 (*hold up two fingers*)
 Jesus is alive! He is not here.
 (*hold out empty hands*)
 Jesus loves us all. He’ll always care. (*hug self*)

Picture of Jesus

Purpose: To see an Old Testament picture of Jesus.

Procedure: Briefly tell the story of Jonah (see Year 3, Winter, Lesson 1, and Jonah 1-3). If possible, show a student lesson picture. Explain that Jonah being inside the large fish for three days is a picture of Jesus being in the grave for three days. In Matthew 12:40, Jesus mentions this comparison.