

UNIT 27 | SESSION 3

## JESUS WAS RAISED

MATTHEW 27-28; MARK 15-16; LUKE 23-24;  
JOHN 19-20

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 5:13



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

Amidst the darkness of the crucifixion story, the promise of new life in Jesus sprang forth. Here in these passages, the truth of Christ's victory became known first to His closest followers and then was spread throughout the rest of the world.

With what power was Jesus raised from the grave? How did these events tie into the story of the gospel or into our own lives? Every word of the Scriptures works in harmony to point to the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. Through His victory over sin and death, those who believe in His name find everlasting life through Him, God's Son.

Despite the security of the closely guarded tomb, Christ still rose again from the grave. Though the chief priests conspired to stop the truth of His resurrection from circulating, the truths of Christ's enduring power still resounded. The guards in their earthly strength, as well as the priests in their worldly power, stood no chance against the unstoppable might of the one, true Son of God.

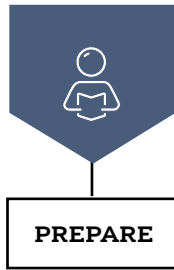
The Spirit of God that raised Christ from the dead was not just a once-and-done deal. In fact, that same Spirit is alive inside of those who profess faith in Jesus even still today. Remind preschoolers that the

miraculous power at work in the Son is still working within those who call upon His name for salvation from sin. God was pleased with His Son who reigns as King over all creation; He has invited us to enter into a relationship with Him, all because of the work that Christ did on our behalf.

Just as the angels reminded the women at the empty tomb, Christ did all that He said He would do, exactly as the Old Testament proclaimed the Messiah would. His truth remains, and His Word endures. Although the chief priests tried to spread false news, Christ's truth remains active and living, still alive today. Despite the mourning, weeping, and confusion of our human experiences, the good news is still ours to proclaim and cling to with hope. Christ is risen, and He invites us into the victory He has secured.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Resurrection:** bodily rising from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was a supernatural act of God. Believers in Christ rise to eternal life with God; unbelievers to eternal separation from God.



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Find Hidden Pictures” activity page, 1 per child

##### Tend a garden

- bin of potting soil
- plastic tablecloth
- toy gardening tools
- artificial flowers
- rocks

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- empty cardboard shoebox with lid
- small piece of cloth

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Jesus Was Raised” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)” song
- poster board

##### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- “Luther Rice Silhouette” printable



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Count the days

- calendar
- stickers or stamps



#### LIVE

##### Fold cloths

- fabric pieces

##### Search and find

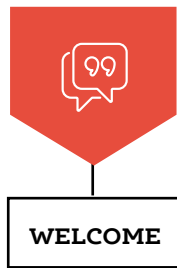
- person figure

##### Sort coins

- various coins (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters)
- sorting trays or bowls, 4
- several dice
- hand wipes

##### Transition

- “Find Hidden Pictures” activity page, 1 per child
- “Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Find Hidden Pictures" on the activity page.

**SAY** “ You found some interesting things in this picture! In our Bible story today, we will hear about some interesting things that the disciples saw when they went to Jesus’ tomb. Things were not quite what they expected! ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### GUESS WHOSE VOICE



Gather the children to sit together in a group. Invite a child to turn away from the rest of the group. Discreetly select another child to call the name of the singled-out child. Ask the first child to guess who called his name without looking. He may ask for repeat listens. When he has guessed correctly, allow him to return to the group and select new children to play again.

**SAY** “ Often, we can recognize who someone is by the sound of their voice. In our Bible story today, we will hear about a time that Mary recognized Jesus when He called her name. She had not recognized Him before that! ”

#### TEND A GARDEN



Set a bin filled with potting soil on a plastic tablecloth. Provide small toy shovels, rakes, watering cans, artificial flowers, and rocks. Invite children to play out tending a garden.

**SAY** “ After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb, which is like a cave. Surrounding the tomb was a garden. People who take care of gardens and flowers are called gardeners. When Jesus’ friend Mary went to visit His tomb, she met a man she thought was the gardener. Listen to our Bible story today to find out whom she really met outside Jesus’ tomb! ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend cry and walk sadly to Bible study as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Place a small piece of cloth inside the shoebox. Hold up the shoebox for the preschoolers to see. Pass the shoebox around the circle, inviting each child to shake it and guess what is inside. Instruct children to leave the shoebox lid closed.

**SAY** “What do you think is inside the shoebox? [Allow responses.] Those are some really good guesses. Let's open it and look! [Open the shoebox.] It is a piece of cloth! In today's Bible story, Peter and John looked inside Jesus' tomb. What do you think they found? Listen to hear what they found inside.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Matthew 27 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Today's story would be hard to believe if it were not in the Bible! This story is found in all four Gospels, which are the books of the Bible about Jesus' life on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are going to learn from John's Gospel today.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### JESUS WAS RAISED

“On the third day after Jesus died on the cross, Jesus' friend Mary went to the tomb early in the morning. Mary saw that the big stone had been moved away from the entrance.

Mary ran to find Peter and John. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I do not know where His body is!” she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went inside the tomb and saw the cloths too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then John and Peter went home.

Mary went back to the tomb and cried. She looked inside and saw two angels. “Why are you crying?” they asked.

“They've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they put Him,” Mary said.

Then Mary turned and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Him. She thought the man was a gardener.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**“Why are you crying?” Jesus asked. “Who are you looking for?”**

**Mary said, “Sir, if you have taken away Jesus, tell me where He is and I will go get Him.”**

**Jesus said, “Mary.”**

**Mary looked at Him and said, “Teacher!”**

**Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”**

While this happened, some of the soldiers who were guarding the tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders what happened. The leaders gave the soldiers money and told them to lie about what they saw. They told them to say that Jesus’ disciples stole His body while they were sleeping. So the soldiers took the money and told everyone that Jesus never rose from the dead. ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

#### Create the scene:

On one side of the teaching area, lay some linen cloths on the ground, with one of them folded up to show what the empty tomb may have looked like.

**Play it out:** Invite children to play out the roles of Mary, Peter, John, Jesus, and any other people in the story as desired. Direct the children on what to do as you tell the story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Who went to Jesus’ tomb on the morning of the third day? (Mary) She expected to find Jesus’ body in the tomb. The stone had been moved away from the entrance! Was Jesus inside the tomb? (No.) When Jesus called Mary by name she believed that He rose from the dead and is alive! Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples the good news. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin. But He rose from the dead to prove that He is the King over everything. When we trust in Jesus, He promises that we will live forever with Him! ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Revelation 5:13. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Write the verse on a poster board, replacing several words with pictures such as an ear for heard, an assortment of animals for creature, a mouth for say, the number 1, and a lamb. Point to each word or picture as you say the key passage with the preschoolers.

**SAY** “ Jesus deserves all the blessing and honor and glory! He died like a lamb to rescue us from sin, and He rose again as the King over everything. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. **How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.** Jesus was perfectly in control of His own death and resurrection. He died on the cross to rescue us from sin, but He rose from the dead and is alive! Jesus promises that everyone who trusts in Him will live forever with Him. We can trust that He is perfectly ruling over our lives, too. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

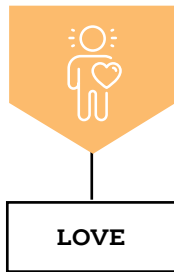
Print and display the “Luther Rice Silhouette” printable. Explain that Luther Rice helped organize groups to support missions faraway and in his own country, the United States.

**SAY** “ Another part of Luther Rice’s job was to collect money for missions; this became his most important work. Luther Rice also led a group to begin a publishing company to print small books to tell people about Jesus. Luther Rice knew that colleges were needed to train ministers. Leaders voted to establish Columbian College (now George Washington University) in Washington, DC. Luther Rice served as a leader at the college. Luther Rice continued to travel throughout the country requesting money for the college and the mission board to support missionaries. ”

Thank God for Luther Rice and for how he helped people understand how they could work together to support missions.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Jesus, You are the perfect King over everything! We believe that You died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. Thank You for proving Your power over sin and death. Please help each child trust in You so they will live forever with You, too! Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ When did Jesus rise from the dead? ”

**SAY** “ How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything. ”

### 3 COUNT THE DAYS

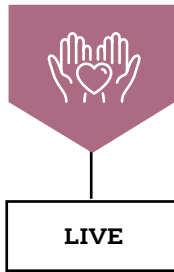
Show preschoolers a calendar and briefly explain how it is used to track days. Find today’s date and circle it. Point out an upcoming holiday and place a sticker or stamp on the date. Invite children to count with you the number of days from today until the holiday. Ask a preschooler to name another holiday or birthday and mark it. Count together the number of months and days until the marked date. Continue until each child has helped count the days until her birthday or favorite holiday. Remind preschoolers that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after He died on the cross.

**SAY** “ It is fun to count the days until an exciting celebration. The disciples were not excitedly counting down the days after Jesus died on the cross because no one expected Jesus to rise from the dead—even though He said He would rise again after three days. But Jesus rose from the dead, and He is still alive! When we trust in Him, we can look forward to the day when He will return as the King over everything. We don’t know when that will be, but Jesus promises that we will live forever with Him. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**







## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **HOP AND TELL**



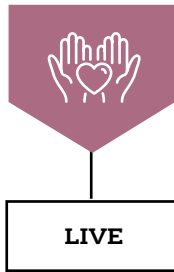
Remove obstacles from the center of the room or move outside if possible. Line preschoolers up in two groups on opposite sides of the room or yard. Tell the first child in one line to hop to the first child in the other line and say “Jesus is alive!” The receiving child may then relay the message to the next child in the other line. Seat children out of the way once they have hopped. Continue until all children have relayed the message, then play again as desired using phrases from the Christ connection, key passage, or big picture answer.

**SAY** “ We hopped to share our messages with each other, but in our Bible story the people ran! When Mary saw that the big stone had been moved away from the entrance to Jesus’ tomb, she ran to tell Peter and John. When they heard the tomb was empty, they ran to see for themselves. Then they went home and Mary went back to the tomb. After she saw the risen Jesus, Mary went back to tell the disciples. That is a lot of running back and forth to share a message! The news that Jesus rose from the dead is so amazing, it is worth running to tell everyone. All people need to hear that Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin, and He rose from the dead to be the King over everything! ”

#### **FOLD CLOTHS**

Provide various pieces of fabric and show children how to fold cloth. Invite preschoolers to practice folding and direct as needed. Remind preschoolers that the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus were folded up. Suggest to the preschoolers that they can help their parents by folding washcloths at home.

**SAY** “ We folded cloths. Do you think you can help fold cloths at home? When Jesus died, His body was wrapped in linen cloth and placed in a tomb. But when Peter and John looked inside Jesus’ tomb on the third day, the cloths were lying there folded up. But since Jesus rose from the dead, He did not need those cloths wrapped around Him anymore. Jesus left evidence that is alive! **How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.** God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that He is the King over everything and will give life forever to everyone who trusts in Him. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### SEARCH AND FIND

Hide a person figure representing Jesus in the room. Invite preschoolers to search for it. Allow the child who finds it to hide it for the next round. Continue as desired.

**SAY** “ The Bible says when we look for Jesus, we will find Him. We can learn more about Jesus by reading the Bible. When Mary first saw the empty tomb, she thought someone had taken Jesus’ body. She ran to find Peter and John and said she did not know where to find Jesus. She even asked the man whom she thought was the gardener where to find Him. But the man was Jesus! She did not have to go looking for His body. Instead, Jesus found her to prove that He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to be the King over everything. Jesus rescues us from sin and promises that we will live forever with Him. ”

### SORT COINS



Set out an assortment of coins and containers to sort the coins. Place one of each coin in a separate container. Ask preschoolers to take turns adding coins that match the coin in each container. Talk about how important Luther Rice’s work was to support missionaries. Talk about why missionaries need money while they tell people about Jesus in faraway places. After preschoolers have an opportunity to sort coins, set out a pattern of coins, such as penny, penny, dime, penny. Ask several preschoolers to create the same pattern of coins. Repeat with different patterns, allowing other preschoolers to create the coin patterns. Ask a few preschoolers to roll a die. Lead each preschooler to stack the number of coins shown faceup on his die. Provide wipes for children to clean their hands after handling the coins.

**SAY** “ Luther Rice did important work to help churches provide money for missionaries and pray for them. We can thank God for Luther Rice, for churches who give money to support missionaries, and for missionaries who tell the people about Jesus. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.