



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives!

SCRIPTURE: John 20

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

When your future feels uncertain, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When pain twists its knife, filling your days and stealing away your sleep, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When friendships strain or snap, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When bills pile up and you dread checking your bank balance, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When anxiety takes your breath away, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When death robs you of someone you can't live without, remember: *Jesus lives.*

Jesus lives.

Those two words—words you'll share with your kids in this lesson—fuel hope. More than hope, actually—they fuel a certainty that beyond whatever troubles tear at us today is an eternity of joy with Jesus. Because He lives, we will live. Because we're His, there's no need to fear that death will one day lay claim to us.

As you read John 20:1–20, put yourself outside that empty cave. Breathe in the morning air, feel the dew beneath your feet. Stare into the tomb and hear the angel's question: "Why are you crying?" (John 20:13).

Why, indeed? The reality that Jesus lives changes ... everything.

May the Holy Spirit instill in you the fresh hope that Jesus' first followers felt when they saw the risen Christ. And may the kids you serve discover that the hope that's in you can be the hope that fills their hearts too.

Jesus lives.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Mary Magdalene was part of a group of women who followed Jesus, traveling with Him and His disciples. Jesus had driven seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). She was present at the crucifixion (John 19:25) and saw where Jesus' body was laid (Mark 15:47).

WHAT?

Mary went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone removed. She thought Jesus' body had been taken, but Jesus had risen! After Mary saw two angels in the tomb, Jesus appeared to her. He sent her to tell the disciples, and He later appeared to them.

WHERE?

Jesus' body was laid in a tomb newly hewn from rock and belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb was in a garden near Golgotha, where Jesus had been crucified, outside the city gate of Jerusalem but still near the city.

WHEN?

Jesus died and was placed in the tomb on the Jewish Preparation Day before the Sabbath started at sundown. Jesus rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath, and the empty tomb was discovered by Mary early that morning.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' resurrection means a power greater than death has arrived on the scene of history. Jesus defeated death! The God of Scripture and of all history lives, and the good news is that He will also raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Empty or Full? Picture Cards, The Resurrection Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

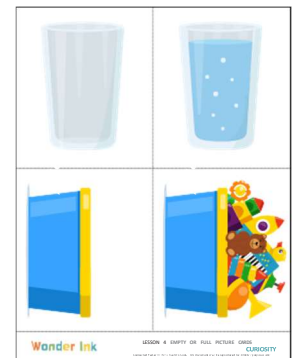
Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Empty or Full?

Set-up: Before kids arrive, place each set of cards in separate stacks.

Play: Ask the kids to sort the stack of picture cards into a stack of things that are empty and a stack of things that are full. If they want a challenge, encourage them to play a game of memory match with the cards.



Play Station: The Resurrection Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of The Resurrection Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw something they love.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, as we listen and learn about the resurrection, may Your Spirit teach us, lead us, and show us Your love and plan. Show us how Jesus loves us and gave His life for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible special? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible pages, 453-461

Jesus is Risen and Jesus Returns

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where was Jesus' body placed after He died? *(in a tomb)*
- What did Mary discover when she got to the tomb? *(The stone was not in front of it, and Jesus was not there.)*
- Who did Mary see outside the tomb? *(two angels dressed in white, then Jesus)*
- What did Jesus show the disciples in the room that night? *(He showed them where His hands had been hurt to prove to them that it was really Him.)*
- How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples that day?
- Why do you think we celebrate Easter?
- Why is it important that Jesus lives? *(We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!)*

Mary and the disciples were surprised that Jesus rose from the dead. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it is true! Because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him.

Curiosity

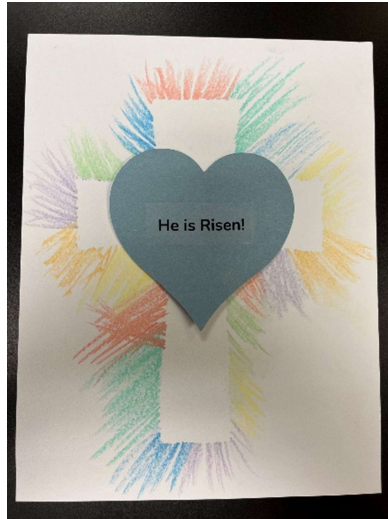
Belief

Faith

Identity

Craft: Colorful Cross

SUPPLIES: white cardstock (1 per kid), cross template (1 per kid), small die cut heart (1 per kid), He is Risen sticker (1 per kid), colored chalk, tape



Give each kid a sheet of cardstock and a cross template. Show them how to hold down the cross in the center of the paper, while they use chalk to color lines from the edge of the cross out toward the edge of the paper. Encourage them to alternate colors of chalk as they go around the cross. When they've colored around the entire cross, lift the cross off the paper to reveal the white outline of the cross. Help them glue a heart on top of the cross and then add the sticker.

If needed, you can use a couple of small pieces of tape to help kids hold the cross in place. Using the chalk is encouraged, but if you have kids who don't like the feel of it in their hands, crayons would also work.

To help us remember our story and that Jesus is alive, our craft today is a picture of a cross with a heart reminding us that He is Risen!