



# JESUS IS ALIVE

Nursery • April 2025

## Concept

Jesus is not dead – He’s alive!

## Goal

Children will learn that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin. He is not dead, He is alive.

## Passage

Matthew 27:11-28:10, Mark 15:1-16:8

Key Verse: “Do not be afraid... Jesus is not here, for He has risen...”

Matthew 28:5a & 6a

## Planning Ahead

### Lesson Supplies

- The First Step Bible, Mack Thomas, pp. 404-437
- The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Toddlers, Sattgast, pp. 234-249
- The Bible in Pictures for Toddlers, Lindvall, pp. 122-135
- The Beginner’s Bible for Toddlers, Zonderkidz, pp. 148-159
- Laminated, magnet-backed pictures

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The doctrine of the resurrection is central in the Christian faith, not peripheral. . . "Of all the great religions, Christianity alone bases its claim to acceptance on the resurrection of its Founder. If it is not a fact, our preaching is emptied of content. Instead of being a dynamic message, it merely enshrines a fragrant memory. Our faith is without a factual basis and is therefore empty. The Scripture writers become purveyors of intentional lies, and the Scriptures themselves unreliable. Deliverance from the penalty and power of sin is no more than a mirage, and the future life still shrouded in midnight darkness. Thus Paul makes Christianity answer with its life for the truth of the resurrection." [1]

As Christians, we can walk in newness of life because Christ rose from the dead (Romans 6:4; consider also Romans 4:25 and Matthew 20:28). "Jesus claimed that His death would atone for man's sin. He said that He had come 'to give [his] life as a ransom for many'. . . He died as He said. But the question still remained. Could it be true that the death of this man would be acceptable to God for others? Suppose He had sinned? In that case, He would have been dying for His own sin rather than the sins of others. Did He sin or was His atonement valid? Three days passed. Christ arose. This, His claim was established. God has shown by the resurrection that Christ was sinless and that He has accepted His Son's atonement." [2]

Defense of the resurrection is essential to the Christian as its historicity is debated by those who would strip the followers of Christ of intellectual integrity. In fact, support for the resurrection of Jesus is extensive. One great scholar asserted, "I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort..., than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead." [3]

Additional Reading: 1 Corinthians 15; Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, chapter 10; Frank Morison, Who Moved the Stone?; Norman L. Geisler, The Battle for the Resurrection; George Eldon Ladd, I Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus

[1] J. Oswald Sanders, The Incomparable Christ: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ, Chicago: Moody Press, 1952, 1971, p. 211.

[2] J. Oswald Sanders, The Incomparable Christ: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ, Chicago: Moody Press, 1952, 1971, p.80-81.

[3] Wilbur M. Smith, Therefore Stand: Christian Apologetics, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1965, p. 426; quoted in Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, San Bernadino: Here's Life, 1979, p. 191.

## Prayer

Pray for the children

- With your team before class
- During the week

Pray simple short prayers with the children

## Lesson Lg. Group

**Instructions:** Use the laminated figures and the story bibles to tell the story.

### **Main Points:**

- Jesus knew God sent him to earth to die to pay for everyone's bad choices.
- Many people did not want to believe that Jesus was their friend so they killed him
- Jesus died on the cross
- BUT God had brought him back to life
- Jesus is Alive - now we can be his friend

## Activity

### **Creative Play**

**Instructions:** Have a few children at a time use the laminated figures to re-enact the story.

Jesus paid for all our bad choices when he died on the cross. Jesus is not dead – he's alive so we know he paid for our bad choices and we can be friends with Jesus forever. We can be his friend just by asking.