



JESUS IS ALIVE

Toddler • April 2026

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	Craft Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 2, pp. 131-158 (A Sad Day and a Happy Day), Ella K. Lindvall• 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	<p>Craft #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The Week Jesus Died"• Crayons <p>Craft #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maze – help Jesus get through the city• Crayons <p>Craft #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Jesus Is Alive – He is God" (Storyboard of Resurrection)• Crayons <p>Craft #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angel outside the tomb• Crayons

*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

Toddler • April

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.
- The last week Jesus lived on earth all the things that God said would happen, happened. (you can use the laminated pictures and the first craft to illustrate)
 - Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey
 - Jesus was angry because the religious men were selling things instead of giving them to poor people
 - Jesus taught the people what God says
 - A man named Judas took money to help the religious leaders arrest Jesus
 - Jesus had his last dinner with his friends and told them to love others
 - Jesus was crucified and died
 - Jesus is Alive - his tomb was empty because God had brought him back to life
 - The angel told Jesus' friends, "Do not be afraid... Jesus is not here, for He has risen..."

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.

Craft #1

The Week Jesus Died

Instructions: Give each child a printed page to color. As the children work, talk about what happened on those days before he was crucified. Emphasize that Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to die so we can be friends with God.

Craft #2

Maze

Instructions: Give each child a printed page to color. As the children work, talk about all the people greeting Jesus as he rode into town. Jesus knew he was going to die, but he wanted all those people to be able to be friends with God.

Craft #3

Jesus is Alive – He is God (Storyboard of the Resurrection)

Instructions: Give each child a printed page to color. As the children work, talk about how much Jesus loves us. He loves us enough that he died for us.

Craft #4

Angel outside the tomb

Instructions: Give each child a printed page to color. As the children work, talk about God's great power. He made Jesus alive again to show that Jesus paid for all our sins.