

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

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



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, and is alive! If we believe in Jesus, He saves us from sin, and we will live with Him forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: If we pray, God will hear and forgive our sins. 2 Chronicles 7:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- After Jesus died, Mary went to where Jesus was buried. The stone was moved away from the door!
- Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and believed Jesus is alive!
- Mary saw Jesus. He told her to tell others that He was going back to God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: After Jesus died, Jesus' friend, Mary, went to the place where Jesus had been buried. But the big stone had been moved away from the door! Mary ran to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus' body. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw linen cloths folded up. John believed Jesus is alive! Then, John and Peter went home. Mary looked in the tomb and saw two angels. "Why are you crying?" they asked. Mary said she was sad. Then Mary turned and saw a man. She thought He was a gardener. When He said her name, Mary knew it was Jesus. Then Jesus sent Mary to tell the disciples He was going back to God. Mary obeyed. She told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 27. Show the **Bible Story Poster** as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **Key Passage Phrase Card**. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“Oh, Jesus, He is alive!
Yes, Jesus, He is alive!
Oh, Jesus, He is alive!
The tomb was empty!”

SAY “After Jesus died, Mary went to the place where Jesus had been buried. But the big stone had been moved away from the door! The tomb was empty! Mary saw Jesus! Jesus is alive.”

2 ROLL THE STONES

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Provide **balls** to resemble stones. Encourage babies to roll the “stones” across the floor. Say, “Jesus is alive!” after each ball is rolled. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “Mary went to the place Jesus was buried. Did it still look the same? No! The big stone had been rolled away from the door! Mary saw Jesus. He told her to tell others that He was going back to God.”

3 EXPLORE LINEN

Cut **strips of linen** for babies and place the strips inside a **tissue box**. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Place the prepared box just out of the babies’ reach. Allow babies to reach for the box and pull out a strip. As each strip is pulled from the box, say “Jesus is alive!” Read the gospel gems as babies explore the linen fabric strips.

SAY “Did John see Jesus inside the tomb? No, John looked inside the tomb and saw linen cloths folded up, but Jesus was not there. John believed Jesus is alive!”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card**. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 27. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 ROLL THE STONE

Provide a large exercise ball. Say one word from the key passage phrase as each toddler pushes the ball around the room. Assist as needed. Talk about how the stone in our Bible story was rolled away from the door of Jesus' tomb. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “Jesus was buried in a tomb. The door of the tomb was covered by a large stone. When Mary went to the tomb, the stone had been rolled away from the door! Jesus is alive!”

3 RUN A RELAY

Provide handheld Bibles. Form two groups on opposite sides of the room. Allow the first group to run to the other side of the room, holding the Bible. Then hand the Bible to someone in the opposite group, and say, “Jesus is alive!” Allow all toddlers to have a turn. Repeat as time permits with different phrases from the Bible story. Monitor safety as toddlers play.

SAY “After seeing the stone moved from the door, Mary ran to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus' body. What did Peter and John do? Yes, they ran! Peter and John ran to the tomb. The tomb was empty. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive!”

4 GUESS NAMES

Instruct all toddlers to sit in a circle. Choose one toddler to sit in the middle of the circle, say her name, and cover her eyes. Choose someone from around the circle to say the name of the toddler in the middle of the circle a few times. Encourage the toddler in middle to guess who said her name. Switch places. Continue until everyone has had a turn or as time permits.

SAY “When Mary saw a man in our Bible story, did she know who he was at first? No, she thought He was a gardener! But when the man said Mary's name, she knew He was Jesus.”

5 OPEN CONTAINERS

Gather boxes and containers with lids. Close the containers and place them in front of the toddlers. Allow toddlers to open and explore the containers. Ask the toddlers if there is anything inside the containers. Tell the toddlers, “These containers are empty just like Jesus' tomb.” Display the Bible Story Poster, and talk about what is happening in the picture. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Jesus was buried in a tomb. But when Mary went to visit the tomb, was Jesus still in there? No, Mary found that the tomb was empty. John looked inside and believed Jesus is alive!”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SPOT THE ITEMS

Find an easily visible object in the room. Share the color, shape, size, or any other way to describe the object. Encourage the toddlers to guess the object. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “When John looked in Jesus’ tomb, what did he see? Yes, cloths! When Mary went to the tomb, who did Mary see? Yes, she saw Jesus! Mary told the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord!’”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“Oh, Jesus, He is alive!
Yes, Jesus, He is alive!
Oh, Jesus, He is alive!
The tomb was empty!”

3 RECREATE THE TOMB

Prior to session, cut a paper plate in half (one plate per toddler). Cut out a semicircle from one of the half plates. Then face the plates inward, creating a dome, and staple together. Invite toddlers to use crayons or washable markers to decorate the outside of the “tomb.” Crumble brown papers (one per toddler) into ball-shaped “stones.” Write Jesus is alive! on one side of the tomb. Then write Jesus was buried in a tomb on the other side of the tomb. Review the Bible story as toddlers move their stones and decorate their tombs.

SAY “Mary went to the tomb, but the big stone had been moved away from the door. Was Jesus inside? No! The tomb was empty. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive!”

4 PLAY OUT THE STORY

Cut a hole in a large cardboard box big enough for toddlers to climb inside. Cut out a large cardboard circle to make a “stone” shape. Engage toddlers in reenacting the story by “rolling” the stone away and discovering the empty tomb. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “When Mary went to visit Jesus’ tomb, she saw the stone had been moved away from the door. Mary ran to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus’ body. Peter and John ran to the tomb. Did they find Jesus’ body there? No! The tomb was empty! Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive!”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.