

JESUS SAVES US TO FOLLOW HIM

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



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of His family forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God loved the world and gave his only Son to all who believe in him.
John 3:16

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 was 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 tune of “Three Blind Mice”:

“God loved the world and gave His Son.
God loved the world and gave His Son.
To all who would believe in Him.
To all who would believe in Him.
God loved the world and gave His Son.”

SAY “ God loved the world and gave His Son. Why did God give us His Son? Yes, because God loved us. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of His family forever. ”

2 CHEER ON THREE

Sit babies in leaders’ laps. Instruct leaders to place their hands under each baby’s arms as they bounce the babies up and down while counting to three. Each time you get to the number three, hold the babies’ arms up and say, “Jesus is alive!” Repeat as interest allows.

SAY “ Jesus’ friends went to see the tomb where Jesus was buried. What did they see? The tomb was empty! Jesus was not dead; Jesus is alive! ”

3 TELL THE GOOD NEWS

Sit babies in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Whisper through a **pool noodle**, “Jesus is alive!” Allow the babies to hold the pool noodle. Repeat the gospel gems to the babies through the pool noodles. Display the **Bible Story Poster**.

SAY “ After Jesus died, Mary went to where Jesus was buried. But Jesus was not dead; Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Yes, 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 COVER THE CROSS

Provide the "Cross Outline" printable (one per toddler). Gather tissue paper squares and glue sticks. Allow toddlers to glue the tissue paper squares to the inside of the cross. Review the Bible story as the toddlers cover their crosses.

SAY "The soldiers put Jesus on a cross. The sky got dark, and Jesus died. When the women went to the tomb to see Jesus' body, what did they find? The tomb was empty! Jesus is alive!"

3 WALK THE PATH

Print the "Pictures Path" printable. Cover the pictures with clear contact plastic and tape them to the floor in a path. Invite the toddlers to walk the path beginning with the cross and ending with the empty tomb. Review the Bible story as the toddlers walk the path.

SAY "Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of His family forever. Is Jesus dead? No! Jesus is alive!"

4 CHOOSE HAPPY OR SAD

Provide paper plates (one per toddler). Allow toddlers to use crayons to draw a happy face on one side of a the plate and a sad face on the other side. Retell the Bible story. Direct the toddlers to hold up a happy face when the story is happy and a sad face when it is sad.

SAY "It was sad when Jesus died. When Mary found the tomb empty, do you think she was happy or sad? Yes, happy! She ran to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Jesus is alive."

5 WHISPER A MESSAGE

Gather the toddlers in a circle. Encourage the toddlers to listen as you whisper a message. Choose a toddler and whisper, "Jesus is alive!" Invite the toddler to choose a friend and whisper, "Jesus is alive" to her. Continue as time and interest allows.

SAY "What did Mary do when she learned that Jesus is alive? Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends the good news. We can tell others the good news too!"

JESUS SAVES US TO FOLLOW HIM

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

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of His family forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God loved the world and gave his only Son to all who believe in him. John 3:16

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE WITH BUBBLES

Gather bubble solution and bubble wands. Encourage the toddlers to interact with the bubbles as you blow them. Read the Bible story. Then allow the toddlers to blow a bubble as you hold the wand. For each bubble, allow the toddlers to share one message of good news from the Bible story.

SAY “Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin. That’s good news we can celebrate! What happens when we trust Jesus? We become part of His family forever.”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”: “God loved the world and gave His Son. / God loved the world and gave His Son. / To all who would believe in Him. / To all who would believe in Him. / God loved the world and gave His Son.”

SAY “Who does our key passage phrase tell us that Jesus is? Yes, Jesus is God’s Son! 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.”

3 COUNT TO THREE AND MOVE

Encourage the toddlers to listen and follow instructions. Count to three and then offer an instruction. For instance, instruct the toddlers to jump up, turn around, sit down, and so forth. If desired, count to three and instruct toddlers to find three things in the room, such as blocks, crayons, and so forth. Continue as time and interest allows. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Jesus’ body was put in a special cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb. How many days passed before Mary came to visit Jesus’ tomb? Yes, three days! Mary found the stone rolled away. Jesus is alive!”

4 SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Provide people figures. Display the Bible Story Poster. Retell the story and encourage the toddlers to interact with the people figures. Invite the toddlers to have the people figures “tell” the good news that “Jesus is alive” to one another.

SAY “What did Mary do when she learned that Jesus is alive? Mary ran to tell Jesus’ friends the good news. We can also celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive! We can tell other people the good news.”

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.