



UNIT 8 | SESSION 4

## GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

MARK 16

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

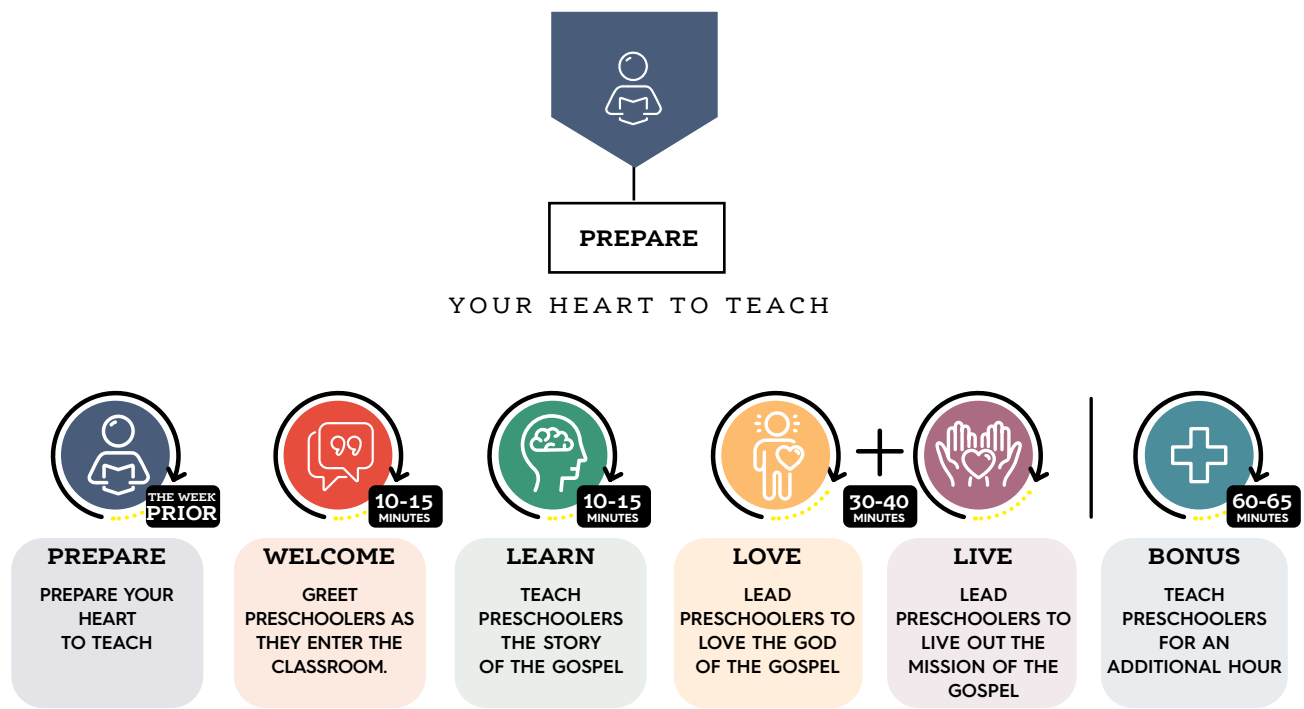
God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something that shows God's power.

### KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14



## LEADER Bible Study

The Bible is a supernatural book filled with accounts of supernatural events. Dozens of miracles are recorded in the Bible. Each miracle points to a greater reality and reveals to us what God is like.

In the story of Israel's crossing the Jordan, we see how God hears our cries and provides for us in miraculous ways. Throughout Israel's history, we see miracles that reveal the kind of God we serve: a God who is close; a God who sees, hears, and acts.

In his book *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis said, "The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares the way for this, or results from this."

All of Scripture reveals the kind of God who comes close, who miraculously took on flesh, and lived a perfect life among us. God the Son died in our place and rose from the dead. In His death, He conquered both sin and death. He came back to life and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25) We should be moved when we consider that not only do we have a God who hears us, but who sees us, lived among us, and lives to make intercession for us.

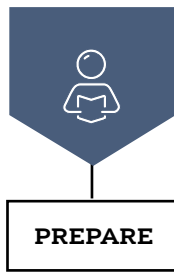
Through the miracle of Christ's finished work, we can be forgiven and reconciled

to God. We who were far off and without hope in this life have hope because of the miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

As you prepare to teach, pray and ask the God of miracles to move in the hearts of your kids as they hear the gospel proclaimed. Finally, say a prayer of thanksgiving to a miracle-working God who sees, hears, and acts for His glory and our good.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Miracle:** event which unmistakably involves an immediate and powerful action of God designed to reveal His character or purposes



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



### WELCOME

#### Discover God's miracles

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ small gift bag used in "Discover God's miracles" from last session
- ☐ small cross



### LEARN

#### Find the cross

- ☐ small gift bag used in "Discover God's miracles"
- ☐ small cross used in "Discover God's miracles"

#### Show how they felt

- ☐ Bible Story Picture

#### Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Smell spices

- ☐ variety of spices such as cinnamon, oregano, vanilla extract, peppermint extract, and black pepper
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ small plastic bags

#### Complete puzzles

- ☐ Bible Story Picture printed on heavyweight paper, several copies
- ☐ magnetic tape
- ☐ cookie sheets or other metal surfaces



### LIVE

#### Discover a message

- ☐ white crayon
- ☐ white construction paper, 1 per child
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ watercolor paint
- ☐ paintbrushes
- ☐ cups of water

#### Make Italian flags

- ☐ picture of the Italian flag
- ☐ "Worthy Family Poster" printable
- ☐ world map
- ☐ green construction paper rectangle, 1 per child
- ☐ red construction paper rectangle, 1 per child
- ☐ white construction paper, 1 per child

#### Snack and transition

- ☐ snacks
- ☐ Activity Page, 1 per child



### BONUS

#### Pray

- ☐ small cross used in "Find the cross" activity

#### Create with play dough

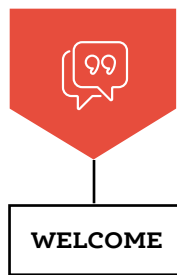
- ☐ Bible Story Picture (optional)

#### Make a tissue paper collage

- ☐ white construction paper, 1 per child
- ☐ yellow, orange, pink, and light blue tissue paper squares

#### Spell Jesus

- ☐ index cards



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversation as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

## WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### DISCOVER GOD'S MIRACLES

Locate the gift bag used in “Discover God’s miracles” from the previous session. If it is not available, find a gift bag to be used in this session. Place a small cross in the gift bag. Post the big picture question poster near the entrance to the classroom. Greet preschoolers as they enter the room. Ask them to reach into the bag without looking and guess what is inside the bag.

**SAY** “ I am so glad that you are at church today. The Bible tells us that God shows His strength to people. A miracle is something that shows God’s power [point to the big picture question poster]. You found a cross in the bag. Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Early in the morning on the third day after Jesus’ death, Mary Magdalene and two of her friends went to the tomb. When they got to the tomb, an angel told them that Jesus had risen. It was a miracle! This miracle shows God’s strength and power. Jesus is alive! ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** the Bible Story

#### **1 FIND THE CROSS**

Bring the gift bag and cross from the “Discover God’s miracles” activity to group time. Take out the cross and show it to the preschoolers. Consider passing it around for preschoolers to examine.

**SAY** “ The last few weeks we have been learning about some of God’s miracles. Our stories have been from the Book of Joshua. Today, we are going to hear about another one of God’s miracles from the Book of Mark. Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb, but this is not the end of the story. He is alive! Let’s listen to our story to learn about one of God’s miracles and to hear that Jesus is risen! ”

#### **2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY**

Open your Bible to Mark 16 and tell the following Bible story.

#### **GOD’S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS**

**SAY** “ Jesus had died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Early in the morning on the third day after Jesus’ death, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and two of her friends went to the tomb. The friends had spices with them to put on Jesus’ body.

As they walked to the tomb, they wondered who would roll away the big stone in front of the tomb. As they got closer, they saw that the stone was already rolled away!

The women went inside and saw a man in a white robe sitting there. He was an angel, and the women were afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus. He has risen!” The women looked at the place Jesus’ body had been. Jesus was not there. It was a miracle!

“Go, tell Jesus’ disciples,” the angel instructed. “Jesus is going ahead of you. You will see Him in Galilee, just like He told you.”

The women were excited and ran from the tomb. ”

Christ Connection: God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 3 SHOW HOW THEY FELT

Lay the Bible story picture on the floor. Ask preschoolers how they think Mary Magdalene and her friends felt at different parts of the story. Encourage them to make each expression with their faces as they answer the questions. Possible questions might include: “How do you think Mary Magdalene and her friends felt as they walked to the tomb? How did they feel when they saw that the stone was rolled away? How did they feel when they saw the angel? How did they feel when they heard that Jesus had risen?”

**SAY** “We showed faces of how we think Mary Magdalene and her friends might have felt as they walked to the tomb, when they saw the stone was rolled away, when they saw the angel, and when they heard that Jesus had risen. How would you have felt if you would have been Mary Magdalene and her friends? What do you think is the most exciting part of the story? We can praise God for His miracle of raising Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.”

### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of the chorus of “Jesus Loves Me.”

“God shows His strength to people.  
God shows His strength to people.  
God shows His strength to people.  
The Bible tells us so.”

### 5 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Psalm 77:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to say the phrase with you multiple times. Each time you say the phrase, leave out a word, leading children to say the missing word.

“God shows His strength to \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 77:14”

“God shows His \_\_\_\_\_ to people. Psalm 77:14”

“God shows \_\_\_\_\_ strength to people. Psalm 77:14”

“God \_\_\_\_\_ His strength to people. Psalm 77:14”

“\_\_\_\_\_ shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14”

“God shows His strength to people. \_\_\_\_\_.”

**SAY** “God shows His strength to people. He raised Jesus from the dead. How has God showed His strength to you?”

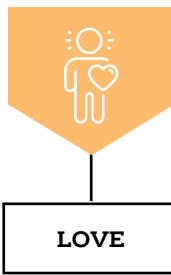
### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Jesus is alive. Thank Him for showing His strength by raising Jesus from the dead.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### **1 WALK TO THE TOMB**

Invite preschoolers to join you in a game of “Walk to the tomb.” Lead children on a walk through the hallways in your church building. Make sure to have at least two adult leaders on the walk and follow your church’s safety and security procedures. If a walk outside the classroom is not possible, take the walk in your classroom. As you walk, talk about how Mary Magdalene and her friends may have felt as they walked to the tomb that morning. Lead preschoolers to act out the story as they walk, including pretending to carry the spices, wondering how they would roll away the stone, being frightened by the angel, and quickly leaving to go and tell the disciples.

**SAY** “Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Mary Magdalene and two of her friends walked to the tomb with spices to put on Jesus’ body. They wondered how they would roll away the heavy stone from the tomb. The women saw an angel and were afraid. The angel told them not to be afraid and that Jesus had risen. It was a miracle! This miracle shows God’s strength and power. Jesus is alive!”

#### **2 SMELL SPICES**

Post an allergy alert. Gather spices such as cinnamon, oregano, vanilla extract, peppermint extract, and black pepper. Pour each spice onto a cotton ball and place each cotton ball in a plastic bag. Invite preschoolers to smell the spices. Some children might want to try to guess the spices or tell what the different scents remind them of.

**SAY** “Different spices have different scents. Do you use spices at your house? Which is your favorite to smell? Mary Magdalene and her friends took spices with them to put on Jesus’ body in the tomb. Why do you think Mary Magdalene and her friends took spices to put on Jesus’ body? When they got to the tomb, the heavy stone was rolled away. The angel told them Jesus had risen. It was a miracle! This miracle shows God’s strength and power. Jesus is alive!”

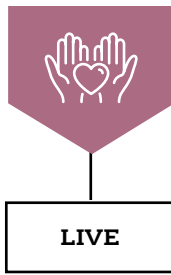
#### **3 COMPLETE PUZZLES**

Print several additional copies of the Bible story picture on heavyweight paper. Cut the Bible story pictures into simple puzzles for preschoolers to put together. Leave at least one picture uncut for preschoolers to refer to as they put the puzzles together. Add magnetic tape to the backs of the puzzle pieces. Encourage preschoolers to complete the puzzles on cookie sheets or other metal surfaces. As preschoolers work, talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** “Look at the picture in the puzzle you completed. I see Mary Magdalene and a friend as they left the tomb. They went to find Jesus, but He was not there. He had risen! God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

#### 1 DISCOVER A MESSAGE

Prior to the session, use a white crayon to print Jesus on a piece of white construction paper for each child. Place watercolors, paintbrushes, small cups of water, and the prepared pieces of construction paper on a table. Assist preschoolers with placing paint smocks over their clothes before they paint. Encourage preschoolers to use the watercolors and paint over the paper, revealing the word Jesus.

**SAY** “ You discovered a message when you painted your paper. Your paper says Jesus. Jesus is alive! We heard in our story that Mary Magdalene and two of her friends went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. The women looked at the place Jesus’ body had been. Jesus was not there. God raised Jesus from the dead. It was a miracle! What would you think if you saw an empty tomb? Jesus died and was buried, but God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. ”

#### 2 MAKE ITALIAN FLAGS



Print the “Worthy Family Poster” printable. Before the session, locate the Italian flag online. Cut green and red rectangles to an appropriate size for gluing to make Italian flags. Distribute a piece of white construction paper, and a green and red rectangle to each child. Guide them to glue the red and green pieces on their papers. As they work, show children the “Worthy Family Poster” and help them find Italy on a map. Explain they are making the flag for the country of Italy.

**SAY** “ Missionaries who go to a different country from where they live have to learn a lot. The way people do things and the way they speak may be different from the missionaries’ homes. In Italy, where the Worthys are, they speak a different language, have different money, and even have a different flag. Every missionary was once a child like you. Someday, God may ask you to go to another city or country to be a missionary and tell others about Jesus. ”

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

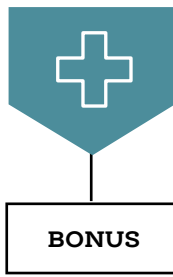


Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

**SAY** “ God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.





## TEACHING HOUR

### **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

#### **1 COUNT TO THREE**

Lead preschoolers to count to three with you several times as you gather for group time. Remind them that Mary Magdalene and her friends went to the tomb on the third day.

#### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open your Bible to Mark 16 and tell the following Bible story.

##### **GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS**

- Early in the morning on the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and two of her friends went to the tomb where Jesus' body was. The friends had spices with them to put on Jesus' body.
- When they arrived at the tomb, the stone was rolled away!
- The women went inside and saw a man in a white robe sitting there. He was an angel, and the women were afraid.
- "Do not be afraid," the angel said. "You are looking for Jesus. He has risen!" The women looked at the place Jesus' body had been. Jesus was not there. It was a miracle!
- The women were excited and ran from the tomb.

#### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song below to the tune of the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me."

"God shows His strength to people.  
God shows His strength to people.  
God shows His strength to people.  
The Bible tells us so."

#### **4 CLAP OUT THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Say the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to clap the syllables of the key passage phrase as they say it with you.

#### **5 PRAY**

Pray, thanking God that Jesus is alive. Then, pass the cross used in the activity "Find the cross" around the circle, encouraging each preschooler to say a sentence prayer thanking God for Jesus and the cross. If children do not want to say a prayer, they can pass the cross to the next child. Never force a child to pray aloud.



BONUS

## TEACHING HOUR

### BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

#### 6 CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH



Invite preschoolers to play with play dough. Demonstrate how to roll the play dough into a ball that looks like a tomb or the stone that was rolled away as you talk about the empty tomb. Encourage preschoolers to make a tomb and a stone as they retell the Bible story. Consider showing the Bible story picture to children to remind them of what a tomb looks like.

**SAY** “ Jesus had died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Mary Magdalene and her friends went to the tomb and wondered who would roll away the big stone in front of the tomb. As they got closer, they saw that the stone was already rolled away. How do you think Mary Magdalene and her friends felt when they got to the tomb? How would you have felt if you were Mary Magdalene and her friends? ”

#### 7 MAKE A TISSUE PAPER COLLAGE

Place yellow, orange, pink, and light blue tissue paper squares, glue sticks, and white construction paper on a table. Guide preschoolers to glue the tissue paper squares to their papers, overlapping the squares to make a design. Ask preschoolers where you can write the key passage phrase on their papers. Read the phrase aloud as you print God shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14.

**SAY** “ The colors of this tissue paper remind me of the sunrise. Mary Magdalene and her two friends went early in the morning on the third day after Jesus’ death to the tomb. Jesus’ body was not there. He had risen! It was a miracle! Our key passage phrase says, ‘God shows His strength to people.’ This miracle shows God’s strength and power. Jesus is alive! ”

#### 8 SPELL JESUS

Print J, E, S, U, S on index cards, one letter per card. Then, print JESUS on a piece of paper to serve as a model. Mix the cards together and assist preschoolers as they arrange the cards to spell JESUS. You may choose to make additional card sets that preschoolers can take home as well.

**SAY** “ You spelled the word Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son. Early in the morning on the third day after Jesus’ death, Mary Magdalene and her friends went to the tomb where Jesus’ body had been. Jesus was not there. God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. It was a miracle! This miracle shows God’s strength and power. Jesus is alive! What are other ways God has shown His strength? ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.