



UNIT 8 | SESSION 4

GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

MARK 16

CHRIST CONNECTION:

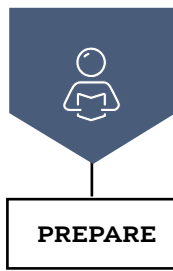
Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 77:14



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



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.

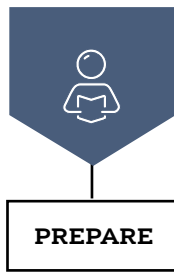
Through the miracle of Christ's finished work, we can be forgiven and reconciled

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 preschoolers 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: an event in which God makes an exception to the natural order of things, or supersedes natural laws, for the purpose of demonstrating His glory and/or validating His message



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- ☐ “You Are (Psalm 77:14)” song

Activity Page

- ☐ “Where Is Jesus?” activity page, 1 per child

Draw with sunrise colors

- ☐ sunrise images (optional)

Explore an empty tomb

- ☐ large bedsheet
- ☐ large cardboard box (optional)
- ☐ box cutter or knife (optional, adult use only)

Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ small opaque containers with lids
- ☐ quiet or noisy items (cotton balls, paper clips, dried beans)

Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ “God’s Miracles Prove Who He Is” video (optional)

Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “You Are (Psalm 77:14)” song
- ☐ previous key passage memory items

Learn the Big Picture

Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- ☐ “Worthy Family Poster” printable



LOVE

Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Write in spices

- ☐ aromatic spices (cinnamon, clove, ginger, turmeric, garlic, coriander, etc.)
- ☐ painting smocks
- ☐ craft sticks (optional)
- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ shirt boxes
- ☐ wipes (for cleanup)



LIVE

Trace faces

- ☐ non-breakable mirrors
- ☐ clear plastic page protectors
- ☐ dry erase markers
- ☐ erasers
- ☐ paper towels

Explore ramps

- ☐ lightweight cutting boards or baking sheets
- ☐ toy vehicles
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Make an Italian flag

- ☐ green, white, and red construction paper
- ☐ Italian flag picture
- ☐ “Worthy Family Poster” printable



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Where Is Jesus?" on the activity page.

SAY "Nice job coloring in the correct shapes! You spelled the word **RISEN**. The angel told some of Jesus' friends that Jesus had risen and was no longer in the tomb. Jesus is alive! That's the best miracle of all."

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

DRAW WITH SUNRISE COLORS



Talk about sunrises or show images you found online. Give each child a piece of paper and ask her to select a few crayons that show the color of the sky when the sun comes up. Lead her to draw with those colors.

SAY "Have you ever woken up so early that you could see the sun when it first begins to brighten the day? That's early, isn't it? In today's Bible story, a few of Jesus' friends who were women went to the tomb very early one morning. Jesus had died on the cross three days earlier, and His body had been put in the tomb. When the women arrived at the tomb, they were surprised."

EXPLORE AN EMPTY TOMB

Cover three sides of a table with a bedsheet, leaving an opening to resemble the opening to the empty tomb. As an option, cut an opening in a large cardboard box. Guide children to look inside and explore the tomb. Make sure children are visible as they play in the tomb.

SAY "When the women went to the tomb, they expected to see a heavy, round stone in front of the opening. When they got there, the stone had already been rolled away. When they peeked inside, they saw that Jesus' body was not there because Jesus was no longer dead. He has risen!"

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Walk around the room and say, "He is alive!" to each child as you guide them to move to the Bible study area.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, fill several small, opaque containers with items that make noise when shaken (paper clips or beans), quiet items (cotton balls or wadded paper), and leave one empty. Shake each container and challenge boys and girls to decide which container is empty. Open containers to reveal contents.

SAY “ Could you tell which one was empty just by listening? The container with cotton inside didn’t make a noise when we shook it, so we had to look inside. In today’s story, we will hear about some women who looked inside a tomb and were surprised to find that it was empty. ”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Mark 16 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “ Today’s true story from the Bible is the most important story of all. We find it in the Book of Mark. Mark is one of four books in the Bible that tell about the things that happened when Jesus lived on the earth. The Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospels. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

GOD’S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

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

As they walked to the tomb, they thought about the big stone in front of the tomb. “Who will roll away the stone for us?” they wondered. Then they got closer and saw that the stone was already rolled away!

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

“Don’t be afraid,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus. He has risen!” The women looked at the place Jesus’ body had been. Jesus wasn’t 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 STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The women ran from the tomb. They were excited but also afraid to say anything to anyone. ”

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Today we get to celebrate the most amazing miracle that God ever did for us. Jesus had died on the cross to rescue us from our sin. People had put Him in a tomb and put a big, heavy stone in front of it. On the third day, Mary and her friends went to the place where they put Jesus before the sun had even come up. Do you remember what they brought with them? [Invite children to respond.]

Do you want to hear something exciting? Mary and her friends never got to use their spices for Jesus. When they got to the tomb, the heavy stone was rolled away, and an angel told them Jesus was alive. The women were surprised, and they went into the tomb to see that Jesus was gone. Do you remember what the angel told them? [Invite children to respond.] Yes, the angel told the women to tell Jesus’ friends the happy news. They ran from the tomb to give the message to the disciples.

What the angel told the women is true today too. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. We also get to tell people that Jesus is alive. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 77:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud.

Revisit the past few weeks’ key passage helps. Recall hand motions, use the sun cutout, or arrange key passage stones. Consider grouping children into pairs and practice saying the verse to each other. Give clues and prompts as you lead children to say the passage from memory.

SAY “ No one else but God can do what He does. After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, God raised Jesus from the dead. How wonderful! God works wonders and He showed His power when He made Jesus alive again. ”

Sing the key passage song, “You Are (Psalm 77:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Act it out: Invite volunteers to play out the women who visited Jesus’ tomb or the angel. Lead your actors to perform as the story is told. Suggest preschoolers pose like the women shown in the Bible story picture poster.

Use props: Show objects to help the preschoolers visualize parts of the Bible story as you tell it such as a wooden cross, jar of spices, stone, white fabric, and so forth.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Display the big picture question poster.

SAY “So, are you still wondering what the answer is to the question: **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.** Who can bring a dead man back to life? No one but God. God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that Jesus is the Son of God who rescues us from sin.”

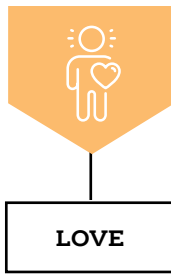
8 MISSIONS MOMENT

SAY “Do you know the difference between home missions and international missions? Home missions happen inside your home country [point to your country on the map], and international missions happen in other countries [point to other countries]. If God calls me to be a home missionary, I might go tell people about Jesus in my city. [Point to your hometown.] If God calls me to be an international missionary, I might go tell people about Jesus on the other side of the world. [Point to a faraway country.] Do you think the Worthy family are home or international missionaries? [Invite preschoolers to guess.] They are international missionaries because they are from the United States, and they serve God in Italy. [Point to Italy.]”

Show the “Worthy Family Poster” printable. Encourage preschoolers to tell you what they remember about the Worthy family. Pray for the Worthy family. Pray that God will continue to call missionaries to work all over the world.

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “God, You do wonderful things that cannot be done by anyone else. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins. Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead to rescue us from sin and death. Amen.”

2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture or the big picture question poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

SAY “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

SAY “Whom did God raise from the dead?”

SAY “What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.”

3 WRITE IN SPICES

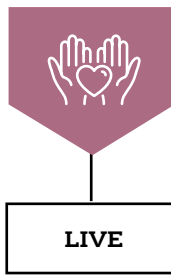


Post an allergy alert. Place a plastic tablecloth on the table or floor. Set shirt boxes on the tablecloth. Cover the bottom of each shirt box with separate spices. Invite preschoolers to write or draw in the spices with their fingers or a craft stick. Make sure children do not taste the spices or rub their eyes after handling them. Keep wipes handy for cleanup.

SAY “Do you smell these spices? In today’s story, Mary Magdalene and the other women took spices to the tomb to put on Jesus’ body. They loved Jesus and caring for His body was one way they could show how much they loved Him. [Write the letter M in one of the boxes.] The word miracle starts with the letter M. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.** Do you know anyone who can make someone who has died alive again? God did that. 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 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

DID GOD DO IT?



Invite boys and girls to sit on the floor. Say true statements about things God did that are recorded in the Bible. Ask children if they believe that God did it. Instruct children to raise their hands if they do or do not believe that God did the action. Use the following statements or create your own.

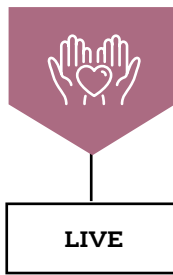
- God made the world in six days. (Genesis 1)
- God made a stick turn into a snake. (Exodus 7)
- God told the people of Israel that they could eat crickets and grasshoppers. (Leviticus 11)
- God made a donkey talk. (Numbers 22)
- God caused the walls of Jericho to fall down after the people walked around the city, blew trumpets, and shouted. (Joshua 6)
- God made the sun stand still in the sky for a whole day. (Joshua 10)
- God told His people to worship Him only. (Joshua 24)
- God raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. (Mark 16)

SAY “ God did all these wondrous things and so many more. Our key passage says that God works wonders to show people who He is. After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that Jesus is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. ”

TRACE FACES

Open a Bible to Mark 16. Show preschoolers the passage and retell parts of the story. Remark that the women may have felt sad, afraid, confused, or happy. Encourage a child to make a face to show how the women may have felt and allow him to look at himself in the mirror while making a face. Guide a child to use a dry erase marker to trace his face on the mirror. Keep paper towels handy for cleanup.

SAY “ Was it hard to draw your face on the mirror? Did you trace your sad or fearful face? The angel told the women that they shouldn’t be afraid and that Jesus was not in the tomb. It was a miracle! Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the dead and is alive! Let’s all make a happy face because Jesus is the Son of God who rescues us from sin. ”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

EXPLORE RAMPS

Add lightweight cutting boards or baking sheets to the blocks area. Show children how to stack a few blocks and lay one end of a baking sheet on the blocks to create a ramp. Place a variety of items at the top of the ramp and watch them descend the ramp. Experiment with toy vehicles with large or small wheels. Roll odd-shaped or cylindrical blocks. Vary the ramp's height and start again. Show a child today's Bible story picture. Point to the large round stone that has been rolled away from the empty tomb.

SAY “ The stone that covered the entrance to the tomb was large and heavy. When the women arrived at the tomb the morning of the third day, they wondered who had rolled away the stone. Imagine their surprise to see an angel sitting inside the tomb. The women learned that a miracle had happened! **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.** They learned that God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that Jesus is the Son of God who rescues us from sins. ”

MAKE AN ITALIAN FLAG



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 one rectangle on either side of a piece of white paper. Distribute a piece of white construction paper, and a green and red rectangle to each child. Guide her to glue the red and green pieces on her paper to make a flag of Italy. As children work, show the “Worthy Family Poster” and find Italy on a map.

SAY “ Missionaries who go to a different country from where they live have to learn a lot when they get to the new country. The way people do things and the way they speak may be different from home. In Italy, where the Worthys are, people speak a different language, use different money, and even have a different flag. Every missionary was once a child like you. Someday God may call you to go to another city or country to be a missionary. ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete the coloring page. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.