

# JESUS SAVES US



**Bible Reference:** *Matt. 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20*

**Date:** 4/5/26

**Easter Service**

**Grade:** PreK /Kindergarten

## Memory Verse:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

## Big Picture Question:

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.**

## Christ Connection

- Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners by dying on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus is His follower and is welcomed into God’s family forever.

## Schedule

- **Welcome/ Intro Activity**.....5 minutes
- **Circle Time and Bible Story**.....10 minutes
- **Movement Activity**.....10 minutes
- **Craft**.....5-7 minutes
- **Music**.....5 minutes
- **Friends from Afar**.....5-7 minutes
- **Prayer and Bible Verse**.....10 minutes
- **Snack/ Discussion Time**.....5-7 minutes
- **Group Game**.....10 minutes
- **Additional Activities**.....As Needed

## Notes and Reminders

Happy Easter! We pray that you are able to celebrate Jesus’ life with the kids in your room and with your family today and every day! We are so grateful for who God made you to be!



# SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

The resurrection reveals the astounding nature of God's mercy and grace: that sinners like us can receive forgiveness through faith in His Son—forgiveness that leads to new life. The torment Jesus endured on the cross was not the end of the story. On the third day after His crucifixion, Jesus rose to make the way for fallen people to be reunited to God by faith.

In Luke 23:34, Jesus prays some of His last words before His death: "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." Though the scoffers and mockers were in control of their hateful words and actions, they did not know the one and only Son of God was hanging on the cross on their behalf.

Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, knew the depths of the people's sins and the lengths He needed to endure to satisfy the wrath of God their sin deserved. Only Jesus has the power to forgive His transgressors, and only Jesus would take to the cross on our behalf for the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). The evil that the people planned against Jesus would be used by God to bring about our eternal good: the salvation of all who would believe in Him by faith.

This gift of salvation is for anyone who repents of their sin and turns toward Christ in faith. Lead boys and girls to see that there is not a single person in this story, or in all the Scriptures, or anywhere in the world who is too far lost to receive God's grace. Lead them to understand what Christ was willing to endure so that they might be saved. May we continually find ourselves in awe of the gracious forgiveness God extends to His followers through faith in His Son.



# JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

Jesus' resurrection shows how amazing God's mercy and grace really are. Even though we are sinners, we can be forgiven by trusting in God's Son. When God forgives us, He gives us new life.

The suffering Jesus went through on the cross was not the end of the story. Three days after He died, Jesus rose from the dead. Because of this, people who have sinned can be brought back into a relationship with God through faith.

In Luke 23:34, Jesus said some of His last words before He died: "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." The people who were mocking and hurting Him were choosing to act that way, but they did not realize that the Son of God was dying for them.

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He understood how serious people's sins were and knew that He would have to suffer to take the punishment that sin deserved. Only Jesus has the power to forgive those who sin against Him. And only Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us because of the joy that was waiting ahead (Hebrews 12:2).

The evil things people planned against Jesus were used by God for something good. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, anyone who believes in Him can be saved. This gift of salvation is for anyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus.

As you celebrate Easter with the kids in your room, your friends, and your family today, reflect on how loving Jesus has changed your life! Have you told these people about why you love Jesus so much and what it means to have a relationship with him? If you haven't, today is the perfect day to start!

If you aren't sure what to say to talk about Jesus, try asking the adult shepherds in your room about ways they talk about Jesus. The adult Shepherds in your room love Jesus so much, and the very fact that they are serving in the room alongside you is a sign that they want to talk about him! Don't be afraid to ask them questions!



# OUTLINE



## Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome each child and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Tape a straight line on the floor from one end of the room to the other. Scatter pieces of red paper along the path. Choose a child to carefully walk heel-to-toe along the path while avoiding the red paper. Invite children to take turns walking along the path, adding a variety of challenges each time. Be sure to remove the tape when you are done!
- SAY Do you think it was more difficult to walk backward, hop over items, or stop to pick up a piece of paper? [Allow responses.] The red paper on the path reminds me how in today's Bible story, some soldiers put a scarlet red robe on Jesus, not to honor Him, but to make fun of Him.

## Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

### Thinking Activity

- Gather the opaque containers. Some are filled with quiet items like cotton balls and paper while some have noisy objects like paper clips or coin. One will be empty. Invite kids to shake the containers to try to guess which is empty.
- SAY Which container is empty? [Allow kids to shake containers and decide before opening.] Even though we listened when we shook the containers, it was hard to tell until the lid was removed. In today's Bible story, Jesus body was placed inside a tomb that was covered with a large stone. Keep listening to hear what some women discovered after the stone was moved.

### Bible Story

- A big crowd of people had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as King, but not everyone was happy about Jesus. The religious leaders did not like that Jesus said He is the Son of God. They did not want people to listen to Jesus instead of them. So, they made a plan to stop Jesus. First, Jesus was arrested and taken to a leader named Pilate. Pilate told the people they could take Jesus away to be killed on a cross. The soldiers made a crown out of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They put a scarlet robe on Him and made fun of Him. They did not believe that Jesus is King. Jesus never did anything wrong, but the people were mean to Him. Yet, Jesus asked God to forgive them. The soldiers put Jesus on one cross, and they put two criminals on crosses next to Him. Some people who passed by said, "If he were really God's Son, he would save Himself. He would come down from the cross." But Jesus stayed on the cross because that was how He was going to save people from sin. This was part of God's plan.





- Suddenly, the sky was dark. Jesus cried out, and then He died. The big curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom, and the ground shook. One of the guards saw what was happening and said, “This really was the Son of God!” Jesus’ body was taken down and put in a special cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and soldiers stood guard. Pilate wanted to make sure no one took Jesus’ body. On the third day, some women went to the tomb. But guess what? The big stone was moved, and an angel was there! The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Jesus is alive!” The women were so happy! They ran to tell Jesus’ friends the good news

#### Christ Connection

- Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners by dying on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus is His follower and is welcomed into God’s family forever.

#### Review Activity

- Invite boys and girls to sit in a circle. Roll a ball to a child. Invite that child to answer one of the following questions:
  - 1. What group of people made a plan to stop Jesus? (some of the religious leaders)
  - 2. What kind of crown did they put on Jesus’ head? (a crown made of thorns)
  - 3. Where did the soldiers put Jesus’ body after He died on the cross? (a tomb)
  - 4. Who talked to the women at the tomb on the third day? (an angel)
  - 5. What did the angel tell the women? (Jesus is alive!)
- **SAY** Jesus died on the cross, but the best news of all is that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Whenever someone repents and trusts in Jesus, she is welcomed into God’s family forever.

#### Movement Activity

10 minutes

Invite each child to bring a block to the group-time area. Work as a team to shape the blocks into a cross.

**SAY** We used the blocks to build a cross. Soldiers put Jesus on a cross. Jesus was on the cross because that was how He was going to save people from sin. This was part of God’s plan.



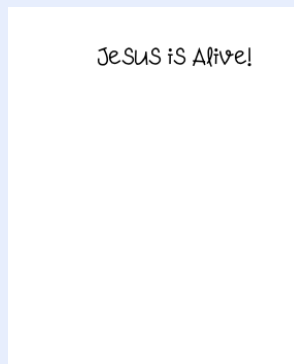


### Craft

5-7 minutes

Fold several pieces of construction paper in half to make cards. Write **Jesus is Alive!** on the front of each card. Place the cards, washable markers, and stickers on the table. Invite kids to decorate the cards.

**SAY** I love the card you made. It says, 'Jesus is Alive!' Who will you give your card to? We can tell everyone that Jesus is alive. Some women went to the tomb after Jesus died. An angel told them that Jesus is alive. The women were so happy! They ran to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Who will you tell that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive?



### Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

### Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.

### Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, thank You for the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. I pray that Your Spirit will work in the lives of these children and their families so they will one day trust in Jesus and repent so they will have life with You forever. Amen.





## Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

### Bible Verse

- Gather the paper rock with the words of the key passage written on. Lead children to compare the words on the Key Passage Poster to the words on the rocks. Assist kids as they arrange the rocks to reveal the passage. Ask kids to say the verse with you. Remove a few of the rocks and challenge kids to say the verse again. Continue removing rocks and repeating the passage until kids have committed it to memory.
- **SAY** Our key passage teaches us how God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to the earth to die so that we can live with God forever. That's the message of the gospel. Because Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today, we can have life with God forever when we trust in Jesus. Sing the key passage song, "God Loved the World (John 3:16)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

## Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made the women at the tomb happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Did everyone believe that Jesus is the Son of God? (No. The religious leaders did not like that Jesus said He was the Son of God.)
4. How were the religious leaders and soldiers mean to Jesus? (They made fun of Jesus and hurt Him. They put Jesus on a cross where He died.)
5. Is Jesus dead or alive? (Jesus rose from the dead and is alive)
6. Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.

**SAY** Jesus was arrested and taken away, yet Jesus never did anything wrong. Jesus asked God to forgive the people who were being so mean to Him. This was part of God's plan to save people from their sins. After Jesus died, His body was put in a special cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of it. Three days later, some women went to Jesus' tomb. An angel was there and told the women Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! The women ran to tell Jesus' friends the good news.





## Group Game

10 minutes

- Play worship music as children sing and move to the music. Periodically, stop the music and tell the kids to find a friend and tell something they know about Jesus. If a child is not sure what to say, have an adult leader whisper, “Jesus is alive!” in his ear for him to tell his friends.
- **SAY** Today, we heard a story about Jesus on a cross. We heard happy news. Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners! Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus is His follower and is welcomed into God’s family forever.

## Additional Activities

As Needed

### Sing “Jesus is Alive!” Songs

- Distribute a rhythm instrument to each child. Lead kids to walk in a circle while they play their instruments to a steady beat. To the tune of “Ring Around the Rosie,” sing:
  - “The stone was moved away;
  - The angel came to say,
  - ‘Jesus, Jesus is alive!’”
- Invite kids to sit down and trade instruments before leading them to play and sing another resurrection song. Lead children in singing the following song to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell:”
  - “Jesus is alive;
  - Oh, Jesus is alive!
  - The angel said, ‘He isn’t here!’
  - ‘Cause Jesus is alive.”
- **SAY** Thank You, Jesus, for coming back to life. Singing is one way we can thank Jesus for coming to earth to save people from their sins. Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us. Whenever anyone repents and trusts in Jesus, they become His follower and are welcomed into God’s family.

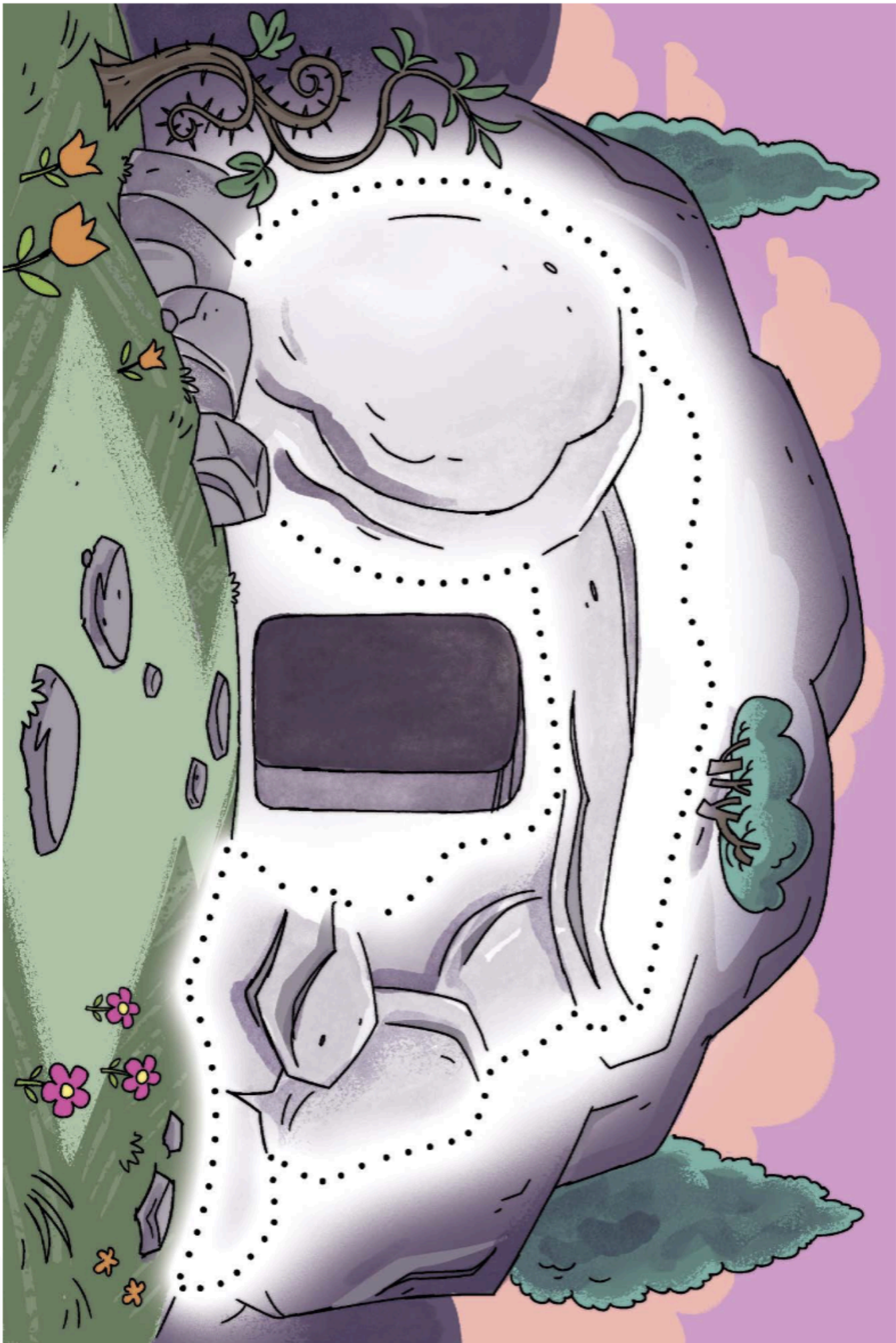
### Add Facial Expressions

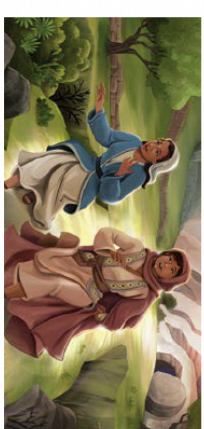
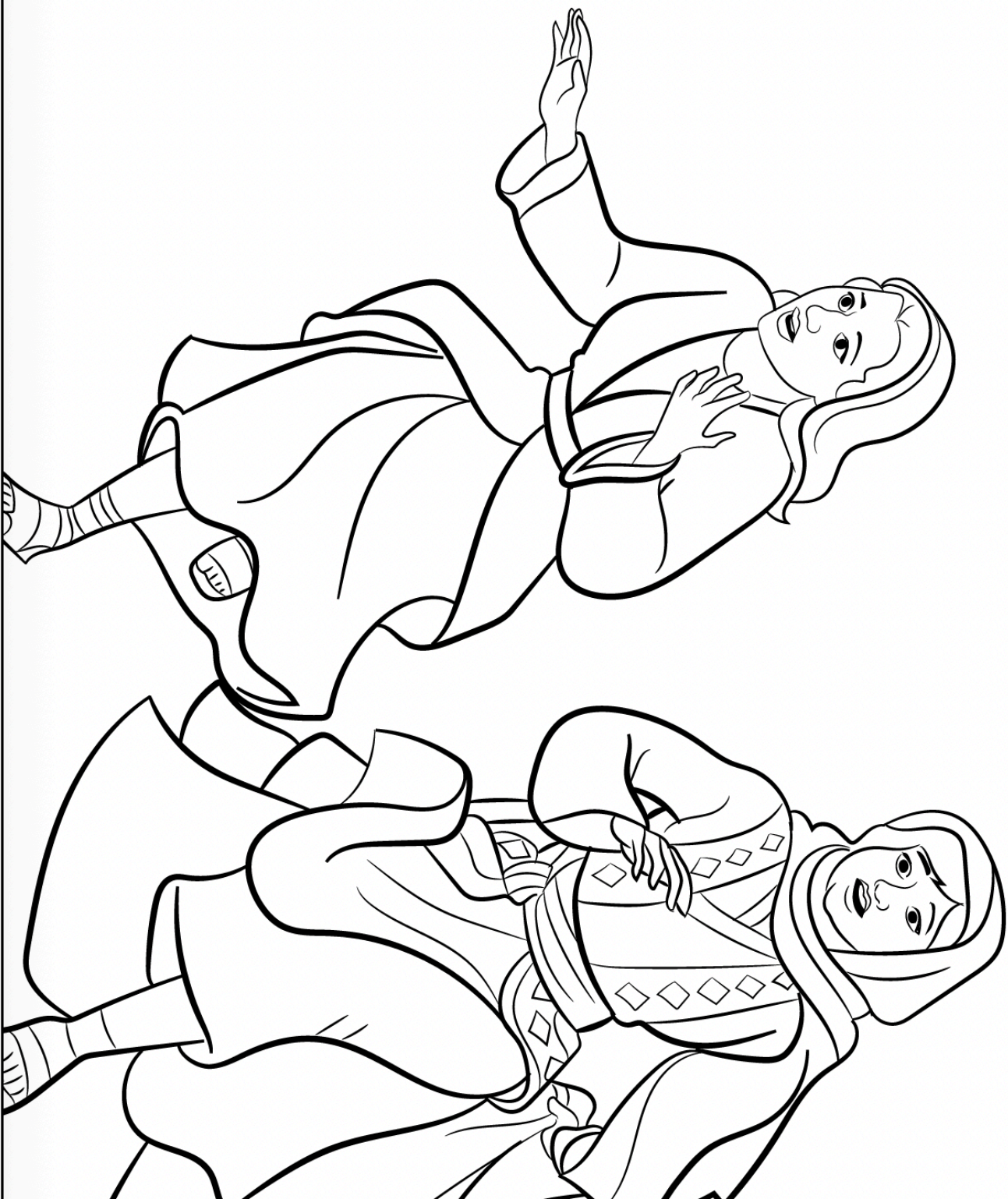
- Tape a large sheet of butcher paper to a tabletop. Use a marker to draw a variety of different-sized circles on the paper, making sure each child has at least two circles to use. Place colored pencils, washable markers, and crayons on the table. Instruct children to draw a sad face in one circle and a happy face in another. Encourage the kids to color their pictures and decorate the area around their drawings.
- **SAY** We heard happy news: Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Today is a happy day because we can celebrate that Jesus is alive. Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus is His follower and is welcomed into God’s family forever.



# The Tomb Is Empty

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Connect the dots to discover that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive!





### Jesus Saves Us to Follow Him

Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16;  
Luke 23-24; John 19-20

#### STORY POINT:

Jesus rose from the dead and is alive.

#### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners by dying on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus is His follower and is welcomed into God's family forever.

#### KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16

#### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.

Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!



The Gospel Project At Home



Jesus is Alive!

Jesus is Alive!

**God**

**For**

**loved**

**so**

**that**

**the**

**he**

**world**

**one**

**gave**

**and**

**his**

**only**

**that**

**Son,**

**whoever**

**him**

**believes**

**shall**

**in**



**but**



**not**



**have**



**perish**

**eternal**

**John**

**life.”**

**3:16**

