LEFC KIDS

SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Grade 3
Nov. 8, 2026
1st Service

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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

What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.
-Romans 8:31b-32a

Story Point:
Jesus died on the cross and rose again because of His great love for us.

PREPARE HEARTS

- [ ] Welcome - Resurrection Objects
- [ ] Starter Activity - Over and Out!

ACTIVATE HEARTS

- [ ] **9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2**
- [ ] Review and discuss the Bible Story
- [ ] Reflection and Prayer
- [ ] Questions from Kids Video

ENGAGE HEARTS

- [ ] Key Passage Activity - Sparkle
- [ ] Group Activity – Share the Good News Megaphones
- [ ] Group Activity - The Gospel Cross

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Three days had passed since the darkest day in history: the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This scriptural account occurs after the Sabbath as Mary Magdalene and a few of the other women made their way to the tomb where Jesus's body had been placed. A miracle was not on the forefront of their minds as they considered their somber mission at hand: anointing the body of the man they had placed their hope in.

Seeing that the stone had been rolled away, their minds wandered to the worst possible scenario: someone had taken Jesus's body away. John 20:9 tells us they didn't yet understand that He must rise from the dead. It was there, in seemly utter hopelessness, that the power of God was revealed to them through the miracle of all miracles: Christ had risen from the grave, defeating the power of sin and death, once and for all.

The women moved quickly, filled with fear and great joy, to tell the disciples. Yet Scripture says they also went with fear, trembling, and astonishment— not saying anything to anyone at first because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). On their way, Jesus met them, saying not to be afraid but to go and tell the others where they could find Him, too. Jesus told Mary not to cling to Him, but to go and tell the disciples that He would soon ascend to His Father.

The resurrection is the reality of the gospel—the good news that Jesus endured the suffering our sin deserved yet rose from the grave to extend the gift of eternal life to believers. It's the miracle of salvation: the sinless one was willing to take our place. For those in Christ, we are called—just like the women who first encountered the empty tomb—to tell others of the life to be found in Christ.

This week, help kids see and celebrate that Jesus is alive and that the promise of the gospel is true! As kids hear this story, may their hearts be moved to belief and repentance, experiencing His life-changing salvation for themselves.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

LEFC KIDS

GRADE 3

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Nov. 8, 2026
1st Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

*KNOW that Jesus died for their sins and rose again to give them new life.

*BE thankful for Jesus and trust in Him.

*TELL others the good news that Jesus is alive!

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children.
Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.
Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.
When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.
****Pen Pal Kit!!***

PREPARE HEARTS

WELCOME

Resurrection Objects

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Whose voice do you think you could recognize without seeing their face? Maybe a parent or a friend? Share why it would be easy to recognize their voice.

Invite kids to complete the “Resurrection Objects” activity page.

After Jesus’s death, some of His friends went to visit His tomb. But today we’ll see that, to His friends’ surprise, Jesus was not there! We have hope because GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH.

STARTER

Over and Out!

- Ball

Lead the kids to form a single file line with their legs spread apart. Give the first kid in line the ball.

Instruct him or her to pass the ball under their legs to the kid behind them. Continue until the ball has reached the back of the line. The kid in the back of the line must then pass the ball over his or her head to the kid in front of them.

Continue this way until the ball has reached the front of the line. Play multiple times, challenging the kids to get faster each round.

SAY: You did an awesome job passing the ball through your legs and then raising it again to pass it over your head! After His death, Jesus was placed into a tomb. But He didn’t stay there: Jesus passed through death and was raised back to life. Today we will learn that GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH.

ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3rd Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What did Jesus do to save us? *Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.*

Open your Bible to Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 18.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Picture darkness: As you read about darkness covering the land, invite the kids to sit in silence with their eyes closed for 30 seconds. Prompt kids to consider what it would have been like for darkness to cover the land for three hours!
Discuss the meaning: Explain that the word "gospel" means "good news." Share that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are called Gospels because they tell the good news of Jesus. Encourage kids to clap and cheer each time they hear something good in today's story.

Jesus' Crucifixion

Soldiers took Jesus away to be crucified. They dressed Him in a purple robe and put a crown made of thorns on His head. A purple robe and a crown were items a king would typically wear, but the soldiers did this to make fun of Him while they called Him the "King of the Jews." Then they led Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "the place of the skull."

At Golgotha, the soldiers nailed Jesus to a wooden cross. They also put a sign above His head to make fun of Him. The sign read: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus. People stood and watched. Some people made fun of Jesus and didn't believe He is the Son of God. They said, "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself!"

Jesus knew He was doing something very important that fulfilled what the Old Testament said would happen. Jesus, the Messiah, was taking the punishment for the sins of all people—every wrong thing people have done—so that those who trust in Him could be forgiven and be made right with God.

While Jesus was on the cross, He prayed "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" because His work to save people from sin was done. Then He gave up His spirit and died.

The earth shook, and the temple curtain that separated people from God was torn in two from top to bottom. One of the men guarding Jesus's body said, "This man really was God's Son!"

A man named Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus's body and placed it in a tomb—a new, empty cave. A big stone was rolled in front to close the tomb.

Jesus' Resurrection

Very early on Sunday morning, when it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. They were very sad because Jesus had died. They wanted to put spices on His body so they could anoint Him.

When Mary got there, she saw that the big stone in front of the tomb had been rolled away! She ran quickly to tell Peter and John. "Someone has taken Jesus' body!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first but waited outside. When Peter came, he went inside and saw the linen cloths that had wrapped Jesus's body lying there—but Jesus wasn't there! John went inside too, and he believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. But they still didn't understand everything about what was happening.

Mary stayed outside the tomb crying. Then she looked inside again and saw two angels sitting where Jesus's body had been. The angels asked her, "Why are you crying?"

Mary said, "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they put Him."

Then Mary turned around and saw someone standing there. She thought it was the gardener. The man said, "Mary."

Turning around, she said, "Teacher!" Mary knew it was Jesus! She was so happy she wanted to hold Him, but Jesus said, "Don't hold on to Me. I haven't gone back to the Father yet. But go and tell My friends that I am alive!" Mary ran to tell the disciples the good news saying, "I have seen the Lord!"

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died on the cross and rose again because of His great love for us. He took the punishment we deserve for our sins so we can have forgiveness and life forever if we believe in Him. Jesus's resurrection shows that He truly defeated sin and death by coming back to life. Jesus wants us to tell others the good news that He is alive! This is the good news of the gospel!

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

Why did Jesus cry out 'It is finished' before He died? [Choose a volunteer to read John 19:28-30 aloud.] Jesus's words confirmed that God the Father's plan for Jesus to bear the wrath for sin had been accomplished. By giving up His human spirit, Jesus showed that no person had taken His life from Him. Jesus chose to lay down His life to pay the penalty for our sins.

After the sad events of Jesus's death, some women went to visit His tomb and anoint His body because according to Jewish law, a body could not be prepared until after the Sabbath. But when they arrived, the tomb was empty! **Who did Mary Magdalene go to when she found the empty tomb?** [Choose a volunteer to read John 20:1-3 aloud.] Jesus had told His disciples that He would die and be raised to life again. We can trust Jesus because He has fulfilled His promise to save us from sin and death. Though they did not fully understand, John believed that Jesus had indeed been raised from the dead!

Who was standing behind Mary when she turned around? [Choose a volunteer to read John 20:14-16 aloud.] Though Mary had been sad, she soon realized there was hope because the risen Lord Jesus was standing with her! Jesus called Mary by her name, just as He has promised to call all of His followers by name. Through His resurrection, Jesus has defeated sin and death, and He promises a personal relationship with everyone who believes in Him.

What does Jesus call His followers to do in response to His resurrection? [Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:5-7.] Just as Mary and the disciples were told to share the news of Jesus's resurrection, we are also called to go and share the good news. Jesus's resurrection shows that He truly defeated sin and death by coming back to life. Jesus wants us to tell others the good news that He is alive!

Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page as you answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

What does this story teach me about God?
God is powerful - He raised Jesus from the dead
God is loving - He sent jesus to rescue us!
God is victorious - He defeated sin and death
What does this story teach me about myself?

***Pray together**: God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to lay down His life for our sins. We praise You for the gift of salvation! Lead us to turn from sin every day as we seek to live in obedience to Your Word. Amen.*

Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 28, Session 3" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- If Jesus died on the cross for our sins, then why do we still sin?
- Have you accepted God's forgiveness of sin?

ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 8:31b-32a.

Key Passage Activity:

Sparkle

- Ball

SAY: By giving up His life for ours, Jesus demonstrated God's love for sinners like you and me. Let's learn more about God's incredible love as we review our key passage.

Have the children stand in a circle facing one another.

Hold the ball and say the first word of the verse. Pass it to the child beside you. The game travels around the circle with each child saying the next word to come in the verse while passing the ball.

If the child says an incorrect word or does not know the next word they sit down. The verse continues around the circle until the final word is said and then the next child says "Sparkle!" to finish the verse. The child next to the one who says "Sparkle!" sits down.

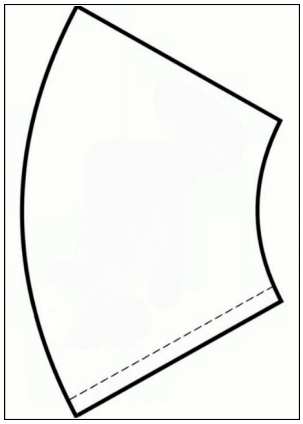
Continue by repeating the verse until there is only one child left, or as time allows.

Share the Good News Megaphones

- Megaphone cut-out
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Scotch Tape

Guide the kids to sit down at the tables.

Give each kid a megaphone cut-out and some markers.



Encourage the kids to think of what it looks like to celebrate something. Talk about how we can celebrate Jesus today and every day! Brainstorm together things that we can share about Jesus to our family and friends. Make a list on the board and have them draw a picture or copy some of the words on their megaphone. Examples might include:

- Jesus loves us!
- Jesus is kind.
- Jesus hears me.
- I can talk to Jesus
- Jesus helps me
- Jesus gives me peace

Lead the kids to discuss how Jesus's resurrection is good news for us.

Show the kids how to roll their cardstock into a cone with an opening on each side to form a megaphone. Help them secure their megaphones with tape.

SAY: Jesus died for our sins, and now He is alive! GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH. We are raised from death to life when we trust in Jesus. Keep your megaphone as a reminder that Jesus calls us to proclaim the good news of His resurrection to others.

The Gospel Cross

- Cross Cut-out
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Give each child a cross cut-out with "The Gospel" message on it. Read it together, slowly, emphasizing the main points. Come up with a few motions to go with it and practice them together. Examples:

- Count on four fingers to "Know, enjoy, obey, glorify" God
- Disobeyed - shake finger
- Sin - X with arms
- Nothing we can do - shrug shoulders
- Jesus - star bursts with hands
- live the perfect life - arms on hips
- die the death - make a cross with arms
- Three days - show 3 fingers
- Rose from the grave - shrink down and rise up
- Conquering - stamp foot
- Repent - hands in prayer
- Right with God - Thumbs up

If time allows - have them draw a picture or color their cross on the back. Encourage them to take their cross home to share with their family and hang it somewhere to practice and remember.

The Gospel
God created everyone and everything.
We were made to know God,
enjoy God, obey God, and glorify God.
But Adam and Eve disobeyed God,
and sin entered the world.
Because of our sin,
we are separated from our holy and perfect God.
There is nothing we could do to get back to Him.
So God sent His only son, Jesus,
who was fully God and fully man,
to live the perfect life we couldn't live,
and die the death that we deserved on the cross,
paying for our sins.
Three days later,
He rose from the grave,
conquering sin and death.
If you repent of your sin
and believe in Jesus' death and resurrection
for the forgiveness of your sins,
you will be saved.
You will be made right with God and enjoy Him forever