LEFC KIDS

SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Grades 3-4
Nov. 8, 2026
2nd 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

- [ ] Starter Activity - Welcome and Question of the Day
- [ ] **11:00 - Kids Worship**

ACTIVATE HEARTS

- [ ] Lesson Review - Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection
- [ ] Discussion Questions
- [ ] Group Activity: Jesus Breaks the Barrier

ENGAGE HEARTS

- [ ] Group Game: Empty Tomb Sprint
- [ ] Share and Care Prayer Time
- [ ] Group Activity: Gospel Picture Sequencing

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 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

LEFC KIDS

GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Nov. 8, 2026
2nd 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 you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others.
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 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.
Option - Pen Pal Kit!!

PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day

What's your favorite thing about Easter?

Easter seems like a long way away.... we are getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving! But today, we are going to learn about why we celebrate Easter and why this story is the worth celebrating!

On the first Easter morning, some women came to the tomb expecting to find Jesus's body. They were sad, confused, and heartbroken. But God had done something only He could do—raise Jesus from the dead! As you listen to the story today, think about why the empty tomb matters so much and what it means for us that GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH.

KIDS WORSHIP

11:00 **Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.**

ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bibles,
Review Video -
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:26-30. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

Jesus is alive! God raised Him from the dead and He defeated sin and death forever. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57): The empty tomb shows that nothing is too difficult for God. Jesus conquered our greatest enemies—sin and death—and He did it because He loves us.

The empty tomb proves that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. (John 20:31): When Jesus came back to life, He showed that everything He said is true. He really is the Savior who rescues us, forgives us, and gives us new life when we believe in Him.

Because Jesus is alive, we can share this good news with others. (Matthew 28:7): Mary and the disciples were excited to share the news of Jesus's resurrection with others, and we can too! We can tell others about Jesus and live with joy and hope every day.

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!

Because Jesus is alive, we can have hope no matter what. We can trust Him, follow Him, and share this amazing good news with others. The resurrection isn't just something that happened long ago; it changes everything for us today. What's one way that Jesus's resurrection gives us hope? [Allow responses.]

Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

What has Jesus defeated through His death and resurrection? Share that through His death on the cross, Jesus paid for sin once and for all. Because of His resurrection, Jesus has defeated sin and death. Remind kids that those who trust in Jesus are promised eternal life with Him forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 6:23.)

How does Jesus raise believers to new life with Him? Remind kids that Scripture says we are all dead spiritually because of our sin. But Jesus died and rose again to save believers from sin. Share that Jesus raises all those who trust in Him from spiritual death to new life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 8:11.)

Why do you think God wants us to share the good news of Jesus? Explain that we share the good news of the gospel so others can know about what Jesus has done for them. Prompt the kids to think about someone in their life who needs to hear the good news of the gospel. Lead them to pray for these people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 16:15.)

Jesus Breaks the Barrier

- Stack of 30 sheets of scrap paper

Choose three volunteers and give each of them a thick stack of paper—around 20-30 sheets held firmly together—and instruct them to try tearing the entire stack in half from top to bottom.

After they try, collect the stacks and invite a fourth volunteer to come up. Give this volunteer a single sheet of paper and instruct him to tear it in half from top to bottom.

SAY: Let's think about what just happened. Our first three volunteers were strong and determined—they pulled hard and tried different ways to rip their stacks. But even with all that effort, none of the stacks tore. Those stacks were thick, tightly pressed together, and almost impossible to break through. But when our fourth volunteer came up with just one sheet of paper, tearing it was quick and easy. One simple pull, and it came apart without a problem.

This helps us understand something about what Jesus did for us on the cross. The thick stacks of paper remind us of the barrier that sin creates between people and God. No matter how strong we are or how hard we try, we could never tear through that barrier ourselves.

But Jesus did something that only He could do. Just like the single sheet of paper tore easily, Jesus removed the barrier between us and God completely and perfectly. When He died on the cross, He took the punishment for all our sin—every layer—and opened the way for us to be close to God again. What we couldn't fix on our own, Jesus finished fully.

Empty Tomb Sprint

- "Tomb" picture

Let's see if we can move as quickly as the disciples did on Easter morning! Form children into equal teams. Place an empty chair with a paper with a tomb picture at the opposite side of the room.

One at a time, kids sprint to the "tomb," circle it, and sprint back. When they return, they shout: "The tomb is empty!" before tagging the next runner. The first team to have all its players complete the relay wins.

SAY: You all ran fast—probably like Peter and John did when Mary told them the news! These disciples didn't walk slowly or wait for someone else to check the tomb. They ran because the news Mary shared was so incredible that they couldn't help but hurry to see it with their own eyes.

God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death. That means the resurrection isn't just a story—it's the power that changes out lives.

Once the disciples saw the empty tomb and met the risen Jesus, they couldn't stay quiet. Their lives were changed, and they wanted everyone to know what God had done. The resurrection didn't just give them hope—it gave them a mission.

In the same way, when we hear that Jesus is alive, it's not something we keep hidden. The resurrection is amazing, life-changing news, and God invites us to share it. You ran with excitement during our relay, and we can "run" into our week with joy and confidence, knowing Jesus is alive and with us. His victory over sin and death changes everything—how we live, how we trust, and how we tell others about Him.

Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Karthak Family**)
- Specific prayer requests from any of the kids about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Karthak Family

Gospel Picture Sequencing

- Sequencing papers
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils

Share "The Gospel" story (shown below) with the kids. Read it together, slowly, emphasizing the main points. Consider reading it through another timer. (Note - They also did a different activity with this presentation during 1st service, so it should be somewhat familiar)

Have the children divide up into partner pairs.

Give each pair a piece of paper with part of "The Gospel" presentation on it.

Have them work together to draw a picture that represents their part of the story

Then, come back together and put the gospel presentation in order on the floor, or tape it to the wall. Have each pair share what they drew. Say it again, this time pointing to the pictures as you go.

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