



SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Pre-K / K
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 died on the cross and rose from the dead.

If God is for us, who can be against us?
-Romans 8:31

Story Point:

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from our sins.

- ☐ Welcome/Intro Activity..... 5 minutes
- ☐ Circle Time and Bible Story (Kindergarten - Large Group Lesson at 9:20)..... 15-20 minutes
- ☐ Movement Activity..... 10 minutes
- ☐ Craft 10 minutes
- ☐ Music and Friends From Afar 10 minutes
- ☐ Prayer and Bible Verse 10 minutes
- ☐ Snack and Discussion Time 5-7 minutes
- ☐ Group Game 10 minutes

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 seemingly 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.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus died for their sins and rose again.
- *BE thankful for Jesus and trust in Him.
- *REMEMBER Jesus by serving others and telling them about Him.

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.



Welcome and Intro Activity

- Tomb play dough Mat
- Play Dough

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

Make a Play Dough Stone

Distribute a “Tomb Play Dough Mat” printable to each child. Guide each child to form a play dough stone to put over the tomb and then roll it away to reveal the empty tomb.

SAY: After Jesus died on the cross, His body was put in a cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb so no one could go in, or come out. In today’s Bible story we will learn that the big stone was rolled away. I can’t wait to tell you what was inside!



ACTIVE MINDS

9:20 - 9:30ish - Kindergarten - Whole Group Bible Lesson in Large Group 3
Pre-K - Classroom Bible Story Time

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- Sticky Note Crosses

*Before class - Post the sticky notes with crosses around the room where kids can reach them.

Invite kids to find a cross sticky note and bring it to the rug for story time.

Encourage the children to cover the Bible Story Picture poster with the notes.

SAY: You found all the sticky notes with the crosses. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.

Jesus' Crucifixion

After Jesus was arrested, soldiers put a purple robe on Him and a crown made of sharp thorns on His head. They made fun of Jesus and called Him "king of the Jews."

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a big wooden cross. To make fun of Jesus, they put a sign above Him that said, "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Two criminals were on crosses next to Him.

Some people laughed at Jesus and didn't believe He is God's Son. They said, "He saved others, but He can't help Himself!"

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Jesus knew He was doing something very important that the Old Testament said would happen. Jesus was taking the punishment for all the wrong things people have done so believers could be forgiven and be close to God.

While Jesus was on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The sky got dark for three hours. Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" Then He died.

The earth shook, and the curtain in the temple tore in two. One of the soldiers said, "This man really was God's Son!"

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 to take care of Him.

But when Mary got there, she saw something surprising. The big stone covering the tomb had been rolled away! She ran to tell Peter and John. "Someone took Jesus's body!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. Peter saw the cloths that had wrapped Jesus's body lying there, but Jesus wasn't there! John believed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Mary stayed outside the tomb crying. Then she looked inside again and saw two angels sitting where Jesus' 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." When she heard her name, Mary knew it was Jesus! She was so happy, but Jesus said, "Go and tell My friends that I am alive!" Mary ran to tell Jesus's friends the good news saying, "I have seen the Lord!"

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is alive! His resurrection—rising from the dead—shows that Jesus has power over sin and death. Jesus wants us to tell everyone the good news that He is alive is alive!



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- Brown paper bag with:
- Cross
- Purple Cloth
- Smooth stone

Place a cross, purple cloth, and a smooth stone in a brown paper bag. Encourage each child to reach in, feel for an item and guess what it is.

When they pull it out, guide the child to retell that part of the story.

SAY: What items were in the bag? [Allow responses.] These items remind us that JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN. He did this because He loves us so much! Jesus took the punishment we deserve so we can be forgiven of our sin when we believe in Him.



Movement Activity

Roll a Stone Relay

- Beach Ball

Line up the kids on one side of the room.

Set a chair on the opposite side of the room.

Show the kids a beach ball, and pretend it is a large stone. Challenge kids to quickly roll the “stone” across the room, around the chair, and back to the next child in line.

Continue until all the kids have had a turn to roll the ball.

SAY: When Jesus died on the cross, a man named Joseph took Jesus’s body and put it in a cave called a tomb. A big, heavy stone was rolled in front of the entrance to close the tomb, similar to how you rolled the ‘stone’ across the room. We can remember that JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN. Jesus was put in a tomb, and it was closed. But He didn’t stay there because He came back to life.



Craft

Make a Necklace

- Yarn
- Masking Tape
- Pony Beads

Cut a piece of yarn for each child that is long enough to make a necklace that will fit over his head. Tape one end of the yarn to a table and cover the other end with a small piece of tape, so it is easier for kids to thread. (This will be done for you!)

Place small bowls of pony beads within reach. Encourage the kids to add a bead for each person they can talk to about Jesus. This can include members of their family, friends, and neighbors.

Tie the necklaces and help the kids put them on.

Pray together for opportunities to tell people about Jesus. (Note: Monitor kids closely so they do not put beads in their mouths or noses.)

SAY: Today we learned that GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD. He did this because of His great love for us. Jesus wants us to tell everyone the good news that He is alive! Your necklace can remind you of all the people you can share Jesus with. Who will you tell about Jesus this week? [Allow responses.]



Music

- Activity page

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 would 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

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

- Hopscotch Words
- Tape

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 Jesus. Thank You that He came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Jesus has power over sin and death. Guide each child to one day believe and trust in You, so they can be forgiven and live forever with You. Amen.

Bible Verse:

Read the verse aloud - Romans 8:31.

*Before class, tape the words (in the correct order) in a hopscotch pattern on the floor. (Make it as simple or elaborate as you want! The one pictured is just an example of how it could look)



Practice the verse together. Then have the kids gather around the hopscotch and have volunteers do the hopscotch while everyone says the verse aloud as they hop. Repeat for as many kids as time allows.



Snack and Discussion Time

- Snack (Pretzels) located under the sink cabinet

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.

- What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
- What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
- What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad?
- What happened to the big stone at Jesus's tomb? (It had been rolled away.)
- How did Mary know it was Jesus when she saw Him? (He said her name.)
- What can we tell our friends about Jesus? (Jesus loves us, Jesus knows us, Jesus died for our sins and rose again, we will be forgiven if we believe in Jesus)

SAY: Very early in the morning, Mary Magdalene and some women went to Jesus's tomb. But when they got there, the big stone had been rolled away, and Jesus's body was gone! Mary saw two angels and then Jesus, but she didn't recognize Jesus until He said her name. GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD. Mary ran to tell Jesus's friends the good news that He is alive!



Group Activity

Make a Cross

- Cross worksheet
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Pass out a cross sheet to each child. It will have some masking tape in the shape of a cross.

Let your children color all over the paper. When finished remove the masking tape to leave the shape of the cross.

SAY: I see all your crosses! Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin. Our key passage phrase tells us that God is for us. The good news about Jesus is that He died for our sins! When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and welcomes us into His family forever. Jesus is alive!





Additional Activities:

- None

MAKE AN EARTHQUAKE:

Guide kids to stack manipulatives such as counters, small blocks, or tiles on top of a piece of paper. Encourage kids to gently move the paper from side to side to make their towers fall down. Place items back on the paper and try again.

SAY Do you know what an earthquake is? [Allow responses.] An earthquake is the sudden shaking of the ground caused by rocks moving deep underground. In our story today, there is a sudden shaking of the earth, like an earthquake. This pointed to something very important that happened. We'll find out what it was in today's Bible story!

Draw a Purple Picture:

Distribute a piece of copy paper to each child. Place purple washable markers and purple crayons within reach. Encourage the kids to draw things that are purple like grapes or flowers, or draw their own purple creation.

SAY: These purple pictures are so creative! You all did a wonderful job! After Jesus was arrested, soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. Purple was a color of royalty, but the soldiers were using the purple robe to make fun of Jesus. When we look at our purple pictures, we can remember that JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN.

TEAR PAPER:

Set out sheets of paper. Encourage the kids to tear the paper in two. If the kids are having difficulty tearing the paper, take each piece and make a small tear before you set it out. Guide the kids to tear the paper using the tear you started.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin. What happened after that? [Allow responses.] The earth shook, and the curtain in the temple tore in two, like how you tore the paper in two. This reminds us that because of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, we can have a right relationship with God and be with Him forever if we believe in Him.

GUESS WHO IS SAYING YOUR NAME:

Guide one child to stand up and turn away from the group and the other kids to sit down. Quietly choose one of the sitting kids to say the name of the standing child. Instruct the standing child to turn around and guess who said his name. Give each child a turn to be the guesser.

SAY Was it hard to guess who said your name? [Allow responses.] In our story today, after Mary discovered the empty tomb, a man came to her; at first she thought it was the gardener. But then He said her name. When she heard her name, Mary knew it was Jesus! Jesus told her to tell His friends He is alive. Jesus wants us to tell everyone the good news that He is alive too!