LEFC KIDS

SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Grades 3-4
Nov. 15, 2026
1st Service

Jesus Appeared to His Disciples

Luke 24; John 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 proved to His disciples He is alive!

PREPARE HEARTS

- [ ] Welcome - Is It Alive?
- [ ] Starter Activity - Pass the Bag

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 - Fill in the Blanks
- [ ] Group Activity – I Believe - True or False
- [ ] Group Activity - Old Testament Prophecy Detectives

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Today's passage describes the disciples huddled together in a locked room. Without needing a key, Christ appeared to them where they were gathered.

Jesus did not proclaim words of frustration to the disciples for having abandoned Him during His trial and crucifixion, but rather words of peace. He showed them the scars He had received in His sacrificial act to bring reconciliation between God and sinners—the wounds Isaiah had prophesied would bring peace and healing (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus then commissioned the disciples for His Father's kingdom. He sent them out, promising them His Spirit, and extended to them His forgiveness so they could also extend it to others.

Thomas arrived late to their gathering, without having witnessed the resurrected Jesus for himself. Thomas didn't have faith to believe in the good news without seeing the scars with his own eyes and even touching the wounds on Jesus's side. It took a week for Thomas to come face to face with His Savior. When Jesus saw the doubting disciple, He declared words of peace, inviting him to believe rather than to be faithless. Jesus blessed Thomas and declared today's believers even more blessed to have faith without seeing Jesus's resurrected body.

Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand, "everything written about [Him] in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms," by teaching them how the Old Testament testifies about Him. It's notable that one of Jesus's first post-resurrection teachings involved how to see the Savior in all of Scripture. You are imitating the Savior this way as you help the kids understand the Christ Connection of each week's Bible story.

Before departing, Jesus declared the disciples His witnesses and promised they would soon be empowered by the Holy Spirit. As you lead kids this week, pray that they will respond to the gospel so that they, too, might become Jesus's disciples. Pray that they will trust Him and receive the hope, peace, and forgiveness only He offers.

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

LEFC KIDS

GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Nov. 15, 2026
1st Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

*KNOW that Jesus is alive!

*TRUST Jesus and talk to Him about about their questions and doubts.

*TELL others the good news about Jesus!

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

Is It Alive?

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Share about a time you doubted something was true, like a story a friend or sibling told you. Did it turn out to be true?

Invite kids to complete the "Is It Alive" activity page.

Though His disciples were afraid, today we'll learn that Jesus appeared to show His disciples that He is truly alive! But one of the disciples, Thomas, wanted to see Jesus in order to believe.



STARTER

Pass the Bag

- Brown paper bag filled with an assortment of items

Gather the kids on the floor in a circle.

Place various classroom items inside a paper bag such as pencils, paper clips, toys, and so forth. (This will be done for you!)

Start by handing the bag to one of the kids. Invite him or her to look inside the bag while the rest of the kids count to five. He or she must state one item they saw in the bag and then pass the bag to the kid on the right. The next kid will look in the bag for five seconds and then state a different item they saw in the bag.

Repeat this process for each kid until the bag makes it around the circle. At the end, see if the group is able to name all of the items in the bag.

SAY: Sometimes we want to see things in order to believe they are true! After Jesus's resurrection, He appeared to His disciples. Today we'll learn that Jesus proved to His Disciples He is alive but one of the disciples doubted

ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3rd Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Appeared to His Disciples

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 Luke 24 and/or John 20.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Make predictions: As you read through the story, pause at key moments and allow the kids to guess what they think will happen next. Challenge the kids to think critically.
Hold the Bible: Keep your Bible visible and open as you are telling the story. Consider reading specific verses from today's story. Remind kids that Jesus's appearance wasn't pretend or made up. We can trust it's true because it's found in God's Word.
Remember Jesus's words: Choose some volunteers to read Luke 9:22 and Matthew 17:22-23. Remind kids that Jesus said He would die and be raised to life. Jesus fulfilled His promises and the prophecies.

One evening, on the first day of the week, Jesus's disciples were gathered ina room with the doors locked. They were afraid of the people who were in charge in Jerusalem. They didn't want to be killed like Jesus had been killed. But Mary had reported seeing Him alive. Was it true?

Suddenly, Jesus appeared among the disciples and said, "Peace to you."

The disciples were surprised and afraid. They wondered, "Is this really Jesus?" They thought they were seeing a ghost!

Jesus showed them His hands and His feet. "Look at Me and touch Me," He said. "A ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, but I do." Then Jesus even ate some fish to show He was alive.

Jesus told them, "Remember how I told you that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead? Now it has happened, just as the Scriptures said." Then, Jesus gave the disciples an important job: they should share with everyone the good news that Jesus died and rose again.

One of the disciples named Thomas wasn't there when this happened. When Thomas heard Jesus was alive, he said, "I won't believe it unless I see and touch His wounds myself."

A week later, Jesus appeared again. This time, Thomas was with the disciples. Jesus said, "Thomas, look at My hands. Reach out your hand and touch My side. Don't be faithless, but believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you believe. But even more blessed are those who believe without seeing."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus's disciples had left Him when He was arrested, but Jesus died and rose again to give them hope, peace, and forgiveness. Jesus offers peace and forgiveness to everyone who trusts in Him.



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), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

Jesus's disciples had gone into hiding because they feared the leaders who had Jesus crucified. How did Jesus greet His disciples when He appeared? [Choose a volunteer to read Luke 24:36-37 aloud.] Jesus came to give His disciples peace by assuring them that He is alive, but they feared He was a ghost. Compassionately, Jesus invited the disciples to touch His hands and side, and even ate with them. Just as Jesus came to give His disciples peace, He gives us peace and hope through the reality of His death and resurrection.

What did Jesus ask the disciples to remember? [Choose a volunteer to read Luke 24:44-46 aloud.] Jesus called the disciples to remember His words. Jesus helped the disciples understand that He had fulfilled the prophecies and His promise to rise from the dead. **What did Jesus call the disciples to do in response?** [Choose a volunteer to read Luke 24:47-48 aloud.] The disciples and all of Jesus's followers have been called to proclaim the truth of His resurrection and the good news of salvation to others.

Who wasn't present with the disciples when Jesus first appeared? [Choose a volunteer to read John 20:24-25 aloud.] Though Thomas doubted Jesus's resurrection, Jesus invited Him to see and believe for himself. Jesus graciously meets us in our doubts and invites us to also believe in Him as Lord and Savior.

Jesus's disciples had left Him when He was arrested, but Jesus died and rose again to give them hope, peace, and forgiveness. Jesus offers peace and forgiveness to everyone who trusts in Him.



Reflection and Prayer

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 patient—Jesus did not get angry at the disciples for being afraid or doubting.
God is powerful—Jesus defeated death and appeared alive.
God is compassionate—Jesus came to His disciples in their fear and spoke peace to them.
God is trustworthy— everything happened just as He said it would.
What does this story teach me about myself?
It's ok to have doubts - I can bring them to Jesus. He cares and will listen. He doesn't get angry.

***Pray together**: God, thank You for the hope and forgiveness You give believers through Jesus's resurrection. Thank You for the freedom You offer believers through Jesus's sacrifice. Amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 28, Session 4" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Many of my friends don't believe in God. How can I help them get closer to God?
- Who is a friend you can encourage this week?



ENGAGE HEARTS

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

Key Passage Activity:

Fill in the Blank

- Number Cards
- Music (From TV)

SAY: Our key passage has taught us that God has sent His only Son, Jesus, to die and rise again. Let's celebrate the forgiveness we have in Jesus as we review the key passage together.

Write the key passage on a dry erase board, leaving blank spaces for missing words.

Write numbers on sheets of paper and arrange them in a circle on the floor.

There should be one number for each kid. Play music and lead the kids to walk around the circle of numbers.

When you stop the music, call out a number. Invite the kid standing on this number to come and fill in one of the blanks in the key passage.

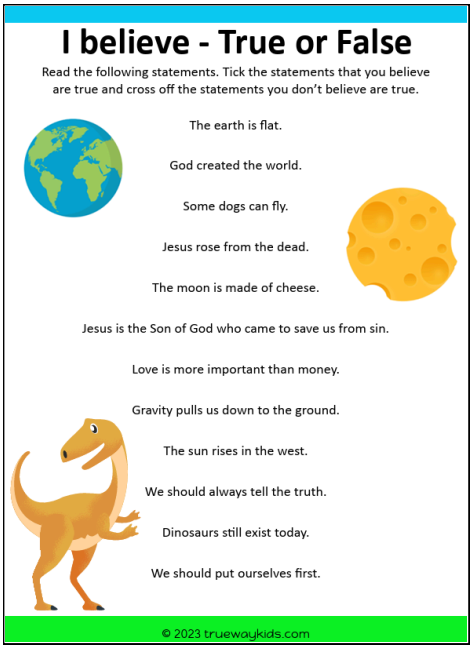
Play until the key passage has been completed.



I Believe - True or False

- I Believe - True or False statements

Have the kids stand in the middle of the room. Have them move to one side if they believe the statement is true and the other side if they believe they are false.



SAY: Some things can seem hard to believe. Thomas, one of the disciples, doubted that Jesus was really alive. He wanted to see to believe. Many times, we also want to see something to believe it, but Jesus tells us in the Bible that "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

There are other things we cannot see, yet believe. For example - what about the wind? We can see it, yet we feel it and know it is there. What about air? We can't see it, but we breathe it in every time we take a breath and trust that it will continue to keep us alive. Is there anything else we can't see yet know it is there? (Gravity, Wi-Fi, bluetooth, sound waves)

Sometimes it's hard to believe without seeing. Let's pray that God gives us eyes to see and hearts to feel His love - that we too would believe in Jesus and trust Him.



Old Testament Prophecy Detectives

- Bibles
- Envelopes with blank slips of paper
- Pencils

SAY: God told His people what the Messiah would suffer long before Jesus came. We are going to be scripture detectives and investigate the clues in Scripture to discover how the Old Testament pointed to Jesus' death.

Divide the kids into four teams. Give each team a sealed envelope with one Bible reference written on the outside:

- Two teams get **Isaiah 53:5** - ("But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.")
- Two teams get **Zechariah 12:10** - (They will look on me, the one they have pierced....)

Explain that each team has an Old Testament clue about Jesus. Their mission is to find the verse, investigate what it says, and report their discovery to the class.

Have each team race to locate its verse in the Bible. Once they find it, they can open their envelope and give each person a slip of paper. Then they will work together to complete the following:

- Read it: Read the verse aloud together.
- Write it: Each child will write their verse on their slip of paper.
- Spot the clue: Underline or write down the words that describe what would happen to the Messiah.
- Explain it: Discuss what the words mean in your own words.
- Make the connection: What does this verse help us understand about Jesus' death?

Come back together as a class and discuss their findings together. Explain that these verses were written long before Jesus' earthly life, yet they describe aspects of His suffering and death. God had been telling His people about His plan to save sinners through Jesus.