



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Jesus is not dead; He is alive!

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that Jesus truly rose from the dead, giving him power over death.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Matthew 28:1-14, The Resurrection and The Guards Report

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is." Ephesians 3:18 (NirV)*

### **SUMMARY:**

Many people wonder if the resurrection really happened or if it was just a story or hoax. Kids will learn that this hoax idea dates back to the resurrection itself, when the rulers bribed Roman soldiers to lie about Jesus coming back from the dead.

### **SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you that Jesus is alive!*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*“May you have power with all God’s people to understand Christ’s love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is.” Ephesians 3:18 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

## SKIT

### PSST! IS JESUS REALLY ALIVE?

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two trench coats  
Two pairs of shades  
A folder full of “secret” documents  
A small slip of paper

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

#### CHARACTERS:

Kim - A girl with questions  
Clint - A mystery man with answers

*Clint enters from stage left in a trench coat and shades. He stands calmly at center stage. Kim enters stage right in a trench coat looking sneaky. She looks both ways. She's clearly up to something and trying not to look like it, which only makes it more obvious. Kim walks up to Clint.*

KIM: The designated hitter rule should be eliminated from baseball.

CLINT: I used to feel the same way, but now I see the value in saving one's pitcher while putting in a hitting specialist.

KIM: What?

CLINT: I know, it's hard to believe, but I think the designated hitter isn't such a—

KIM: Why are you talking about baseball?

CLINT: You brought it up!

KIM: I was giving you the pass phrase!

CLINT: Oh, that. I changed it again. *(hands her a slip of paper)* Here you go.

# SKIT

KIM: (*reads*) Han Solo shot first?

CLINT: You bet he did! Now what can I do for you this week?

KIM: You know, I have a really serious question this week, and I'd appreciate you giving me a serious answer.

CLINT: I shall do my best. What are you curious about?

KIM: How do we know Jesus really came back from the dead?

CLINT: That is a serious question. And it demands a serious answer.

KIM: Do you have the answer?

CLINT: I do. Do you know where Jesus is buried?

KIM: No.

CLINT: Of course not. Because he's no longer buried. There's an empty tomb in Israel because Jesus rose from the dead.

KIM: How do we know this is for real, and not a hoax?

CLINT: Because there were hundreds of people who saw Jesus with their own eyes. His disciples, and many followers. And the hoax idea is nothing new either. (*hands her a folder*) Have a look.

KIM: This says that the Roman soldiers saw an angel open the tomb, but they were bribed to tell everyone it was a hoax.

CLINT: People have claimed Jesus' resurrection was a fake since day one. But if the disciples stole the body, do you really think they would all die to protect a lie?

KIM: No way.

CLINT: The resurrection was no hoax. Jesus is alive, and He has the power to conquer death! He is my Savior, and I know I will live forever with Him.

KIM: I appreciate the answer as always, thank you.

CLINT: My pleasure. Hey, by the way, what are you planning to do with all these answers?

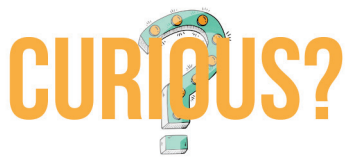
# SKIT

KIM: You asking me a question now?

CLINT: Maybe.

KIM: Meet me here next week and I'll tell you.

CLINT: Tricky.



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

An Amazon Echo (or similar device)

Do you know what a conspiracy theory is? A conspiracy theory is the belief that something dark or secret is going on, something someone doesn't want us to know about. Some people think there's a government conspiracy to keep us from learning about aliens. Some people think there's a conspiracy to keep us from knowing the truth about who killed President John F. Kennedy. Some people think that Amazon is actually listening to us, all the time, through devices like this Echo. They also think that Apple is listening to us through our iPhones and that Google is listening through the Google Dot. How many of you have one of these devices at home? How many of you have heard your mom or dad say, "I think they are listening to us?"

I don't know if Amazon is listening to us or not, but I'm okay with them hearing this – the resurrection is no conspiracy. From the day Jesus rose from the grave, people have tried to say it was a lie, but the real lie was one of the soldiers made up when they were bribed to say the body was stolen. No one would die for a lie, and the fact that so many people saw Jesus alive and were willing to die for Him proves there was no conspiracy to hide Jesus' body.

Did Jesus really rise from the grave? Yes, He did, and He has conquered sin and death. We can place our faith in Him knowing that we will live forever with Jesus.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### UFO LANDING

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two (or more) stools  
A stack of frisbees

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. The two players will put their UFO navigation skills to the test as they try to land one “UFO” (frisbee) on top of one of the stools set up on stage. First player to toss and land a UFO on a stool wins.

#### VARIATION:

This can also be a minute to win it game, and let everyone take a turn trying to land a UFO on a stool in 60 seconds or less.

#### WHAT’S THE POINT?

The conspiracy theory about the resurrection is false; Jesus is alive!



## LARGE GORUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Jesus is not dead; He is alive!

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that Jesus truly rose from the dead, giving him power over death.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Matthew 28:1-14, The Resurrection and The Guards Report

### **INTRO:**

How many of you know the story of President Richard Nixon? Richard Nixon was the vice president under Dwight Eisenhower from 1953 to 1961, and in 1968, he was elected president himself. He was re-elected in 1972, and he did many good things. But Nixon will always be remembered for a scandal known as Watergate. Some men working for Richard Nixon broke into the Democratic Party office in the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC and were caught. Only a handful of Nixon's staff members knew about the break-in, including a staff member named Chuck Colson, and they committed another crime by trying to keep people from finding out they were responsible.

Nixon and his men lied about the robbery at the Watergate, and they did their best to keep it a secret. They failed. One of the men trying to keep the secret was afraid of going to jail, and he told the truth. Richard Nixon was forced to resign from the presidency, and many of his staff members, including Chuck Colson, went to jail.

Why am I telling you this story? Because many people today believe the resurrection of Jesus was a conspiracy, a hoax created by the disciples of Jesus. People think it is impossible that a man, even one who claimed to be the Son of God, could have risen from the dead. They choose to believe the story that a group of unarmed men, including some fishermen and a tax collector, overpowered some Roman soldiers, rolled a giant stone out of the way, and stole the body of Jesus rather than believe Jesus is alive.

The real conspiracy is the cover-up that began the day Jesus rose from the grave. The soldiers assigned to guard his tomb reported to their commanders what had happened, and they were bribed to keep it quiet. They began a story, then and there, that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus and faked his resurrection.

**READ MATTHEW 28:1-14**

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## **MAIN POINT:**

The day Jesus vanished from His tomb, someone started a lie. It was either the disciples, who were in hiding and afraid for their lives, or the men who had Jesus killed. Within days, the men who were in hiding were out in the open, proclaiming they had seen the risen Christ, while the soldiers and their benefactors tried to convince everyone it was a lie. But after Mary saw Jesus in the garden, many more people saw Jesus alive. Who should we believe?

The men who proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus believed in Him so much, they were willing to die for Him. Ten of the eleven disciples were all killed because they preached the name of Jesus, while the eleventh was brutally tortured and exiled to an island prison. If it was all a lie, one of them would have cracked. One of them would have said, "We lied! We made it all up! Here's where you can find the body of Jesus!"

Jesus' disciples died for Him because He died for them. Jesus is alive and has the power over death. Because He lives, we can have eternal life.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

I mentioned earlier a man named Chuck Colson. He was one of the men sent to prison for trying to help President Nixon keep Watergate a secret. He became a Christian before he went to jail, and in 1983, he wrote about how his personal experience with Watergate proves the resurrection is no hoax. Here in his own words is his explanation for believing Jesus is alive:

"The [lie about Watergate] could only be held together for two weeks, and then everybody jumped ship in order to save themselves. Now, the fact is that all that those around the President were facing was embarrassment, maybe prison. Nobody's life was at stake.

"But what about the disciples? Twelve powerless men, peasants really, were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stonings, execution. Every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus' body raised from the dead.

"Don't you think that one of those apostles would have cracked before being beheaded or stoned? That one of them would have made a deal with the authorities? None did.

"You see, men will give their lives for something they believe to be true—they will never give their lives for something they know to be false."

There is no hoax. There is no conspiracy. There is no body. There is no hidden tomb waiting to be found. As the angel said to Mary Magdalene, "He is not here; He is risen!"

**CURIOS: DID JESUS REALLY COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?**

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jesus is alive, and we can take that statement as fact because countless men and women, not just the disciples, were willing to die for Him.

Jesus is alive. I believe that with all my heart. He has the power to overcome death and give us eternal life. If we believe in Jesus, we will live forever.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you that Jesus is alive!*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is one big mystery you would like to solve?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### **Ephesians 3:18**

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of musical chairs. Who will be the last person sitting?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### **Read Matthew 28:1-14**

What happened on the third day after Jesus' death?

Who was the first person to see Jesus alive?

What did the soldiers report about Jesus?

What were the soldiers paid to say about Jesus?

How do we know Jesus is alive?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to tell the world that Jesus is alive.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is one big mystery you would like to solve?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### **Ephesians 3:18**

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of musical chairs. Who will be the last person sitting?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### **Read Matthew 28:1-14**

Who was the first person to see Jesus alive?

Who else saw Jesus raised from the dead?

Why were the soldiers bribed to say Jesus' body was stolen?

How do we know Jesus is alive?

How would you answer someone who wants to know if Jesus is alive?

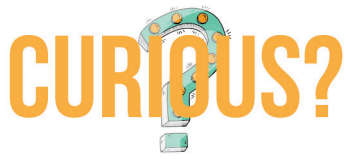
### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to tell the world that Jesus is alive.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### WHO DID IT?

This woman went to the tomb of Jesus on the third day.

MARY MAGDALENE

This person told Mary Jesus was raised from the grave.

AN ANGEL

Who reported to the high priest that Jesus had risen?

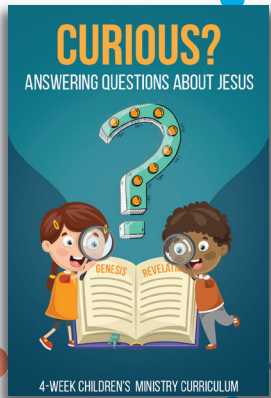
THE GUARDS

Whom did the High Priest bribe the guards to blame for Jesus' disappearance?

THE DISCIPLES

Who died for our sins and appeared to Mary after He had risen?

JESUS



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Curious Lesson 3

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DID JESUS REALLY COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Many people wonder if the resurrection really happened or if it was just a story or hoax. Kids will learn that this hoax idea dates back to the resurrection itself, when the rulers bribed Roman soldiers to lie about Jesus coming back from the dead. Matthew 28:1-14, The Resurrection and The Guards Report



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Talk with your kids about some mysteries and conspiracy theories - the Kennedy assassination, Bigfoot, anything that's of interest. Re-read today's story about the High Priest and the guards. Ask the kids why they think this story was made up, and then ask them how we know Jesus is alive?



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What story did the guards and the High Priest make up about Jesus?
- Who saw Jesus was alive after His resurrection?
- How do we know the story of Jesus' resurrection is true?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is." Ephesians 3:18 (NirV)*



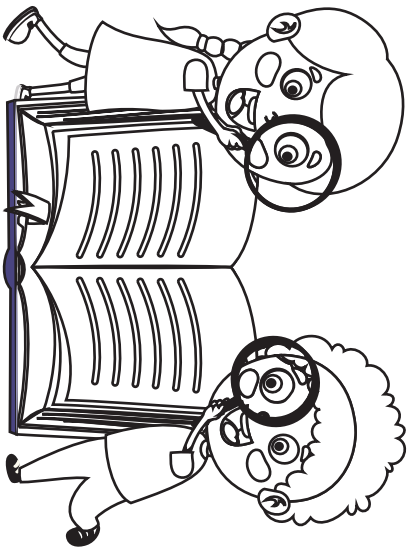
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

There have been conspiracy theories about Jesus ever since the day He rose from the grave. Jesus is alive. He was seen by many after his resurrection, and there is no body lying in a tomb anywhere to dispute their claims. Talk with your kids about the questions they have about Jesus, and ask them if they understand what it means for us as believers.

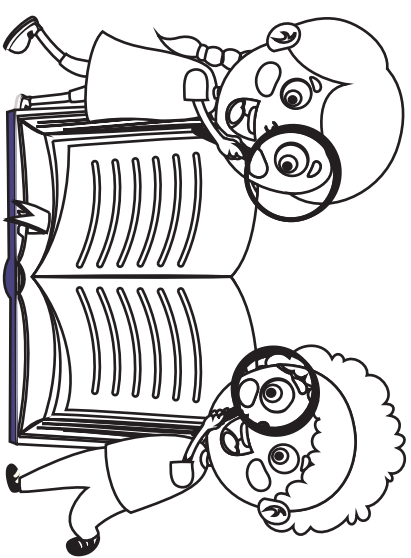
## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week, have the kids make a game card (like Trivial Pursuit) or flash card with the week's question on one side and the answer on the other. The kids can write these themselves or cut out typed questions and answers to glue on note cards. The kids can then decorate the cards with crayons.



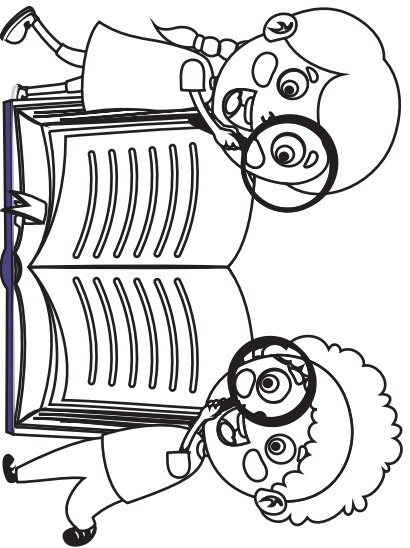
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- Ephesians 3:18 (NIRV)



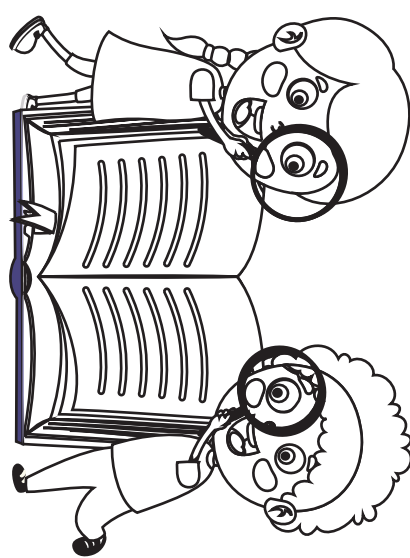
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