

Bible Point ▶

Jesus gives us new life.

Bible Verse

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- prepare a special feast,
 - create a spring garden,
 - learn ways to remember Jesus, and
 - help Whiskers remember Jesus.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- Jesus shares a final meal with his disciples.

Mark

14:12-26, 32-42



As throngs of people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, many residents of the city often made rooms available so travelers could celebrate the Passover meal together. In this case, it appears that Jesus had made arrangements in advance to use a particular room so he and his disciples could eat a meal without interruption.

During the Passover meal, the focus was usually on the preparation and eating of the Passover lamb, reflecting back to the first Passover. Yet, in this account, there is no mention of Jesus and his disciples eating lamb. We don't know why that is, but we do know that Jesus changed the focus of that celebration for those present and for followers yet to come. No longer would the Passover meal be representative of the actual lamb that was killed to save the Israelite children, but the bread and wine would now represent the body and blood of Jesus—the Lamb of God who would be slain for the sins of the world.

Prayer

- Read 1 John 5:13.
- How do you think the experience of the Last Supper affected the disciples after they also experienced the death of Jesus?
- What special meaning does partaking of the Lord's Supper hold for you?
- Pray: Lord, help my preschoolers begin to understand what you did for them through Jesus as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Garden Mural —Begin a garden mural that will be used during the Bible story.	Newsprint, masking tape, sponges, tempera paint, pie plates, scissors, wet wipes	
	Option 2: A Special Meal —Prepare and serve a pretend meal, and hear about the meal Jesus shared with his friends.	Play dishes, cooking utensils, play food, stuffed animals	
	Option 3: Heart Necklaces —Create reminders of Jesus, and hear how Jesus asked his friends to remember him.	Plastic sandwich bags, salt, flour, water, measuring cups, yarn, wax paper, trays	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Prepare a special meal like the one Jesus and his followers ate.	Crackers, juice, paper towels, small paper cups	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Review last week's story, and learn about the Last Supper.	Bible, garden mural made in Option 1	
	Do the Bible Story —Eat a special meal, and pray in their "garden."	Snack prepared during "Setting the Stage," garden mural made in Option 1	
Closing 	I Remember Jesus —Teach Whiskers about how to remember Jesus.	Heart necklace from Option 3 or scissors, red construction paper, yarn	
	Jesus Gives New Life —Sing a praise song about Easter.	Bible, CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "What did you tell your family about Jesus' donkey ride?" or "How did your family praise Jesus this week?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► *Jesus gives us new life.***
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.



Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What holidays do you like to celebrate?" or "What's your favorite special meal?"

■ Option 1: Garden Mural

SUPPLIES: newsprint, masking tape, sponges, pink or yellow tempera paint, green tempera paint, pie plates, scissors, wet wipes

Before class, form the base for a mural by hanging several large sheets of newsprint on a wall at children's eye level. Children will add to the mural each week, so make it large enough for all the children's artwork. Cut sponges into leaf and flower shapes.

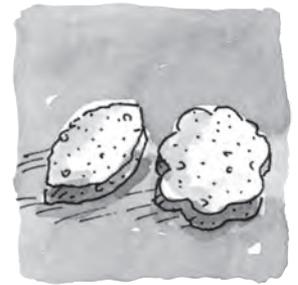
Mix the green tempera paint and the pink or yellow tempera paint in pie plates. Have children dip the sponges in the paint and press the sponges onto the paper to make colorful flowers and leaves. Afterward, give them wet wipes for cleanup.

Tell children that in today's Bible story they'll hear about a time Jesus and his followers went to a garden. Remind children that ► *Jesus gives us new life.*

■ Option 2: A Special Meal

SUPPLIES: play dishes, cooking utensils, play food, stuffed animals

Set up a kitchen area in your classroom. Provide play dishes and cooking utensils. Have children pretend to prepare a special meal by using their imaginations or by using play food. They can serve the meal to one another or to stuffed animals. Tell children that today's Bible story is about a special meal that Jesus shared with his followers.



This mural will be used during one of the later Bible Story activities in this lesson. It will also be used in coming weeks. If you choose not to include it in your lesson plan, you may want to recruit someone to draw a garden scene on newsprint for the activities.

One source for newsprint can be your local newspaper. Often newspapers that maintain their own printing press will sell "end rolls" of newsprint. Newsprint is great to use for creating large murals.



teacher tips

If you want to change this a bit, you could let the children make “heart pendants” by using a small heart cookie cutter. They could roll the dough out with rolling pins and then cut out the hearts. A hole can be made for the yarn by pushing a straw into the heart before the dough dries.

If you want to make up several batches of the dough before class, the full recipe calls for 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, and ½ cup of water.

You will also need a heart necklace for Whiskers in this lesson. If you choose not to do this option, make a simple heart necklace using the directions on page 84.

Option 3: Heart Necklaces

SUPPLIES: 1 plastic sandwich bag per child, salt, flour, water, measuring cups, 18-inch length of yarn per child, wax paper, trays

In a sandwich bag, give each child 1 cup flour and ½ cup salt. Add ¼ cup water (at room temperature) to each bag. Seal the bags, and have the children knead the mixture for several minutes until it becomes smooth and elastic and forms a dough.

When the dough is smooth, have the children remove it from the bags, roll it into ropes, loop the ropes into circles, and pinch the ends together to form heart shapes. Thread an 18-inch length of yarn through each heart, and tie a knot so it can be worn as a necklace. Set the necklaces on wax paper in a warm spot to dry. If you don’t have a lot of counter space, put the wax paper on trays that can be placed on chairs. Tell children that their necklaces can help them remember how much Jesus loves them. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus asked his friends to remember him.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: crackers, juice, paper towels, small paper cups



Tell the children you’ll shake the *clapper* to get their attention. Explain that when you shake it, the children are to stop what they’re doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Painted a garden; fixed a pretend meal; made a heart necklace.)



Say: **Some of you created a beautiful garden.**

Ask: • **What did you put in the garden?** (Flowers; leaves; we painted it with sponges.)

Say: **Soon we'll visit the garden you made, and we'll find out what happened when Jesus and his followers went to a garden. Some of you made heart necklaces.**

Ask: • **What did you use to make the necklaces?** (Flour and water; dough; hearts and string.)

Say: **You used flour and water to make your dough, just like your mom or dad would use to make bread. Bread is important in today's Bible story. Listen carefully and you'll find out why. The necklaces you made will help us remember what happened to Jesus. Some of you served a special meal.**

Ask: • **What did you make at your special meal?** (Tacos; pizza; cookies.)

Say: **Our story today is about a very special meal. To get ready for our Bible story, let's make a special meal for us to enjoy a little bit later.**

Gather children around a table where you've set out crackers and small cups of juice. Set a paper towel in front of each child. Then have children take turns setting two crackers and a cup of juice on their paper towels. Tell children not to eat any of the snack yet. Explain that you're preparing a special meal for later.

Ask: • **What do you do to prepare for special meals at home?** (Wash my hands; get dressed up; help set the table.)

• **What is your favorite special meal?** (Birthday cake; spaghetti; hamburgers; pizza.)

Say: **Jesus and his friends shared a special meal together. During this special meal, Jesus did something to help his followers remember that ► Jesus gives us new life. Let's bring out our Bible and find out what happened.**



Three- and four-year-olds are generally happy. However, they can be influenced by the reactions of the other children. They're also sensitive to the moods and reactions of adults.



Three- and four-year-olds may still feel anxious about leaving their parents, so your welcoming presence is important! If children see you smiling at the door week after week, they'll soon offer you their trust and look forward to coming to class.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you're done using them so they can be used in future lessons!



I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *cross and crown stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, garden mural from Option 1



Bring out the *Bible Big Book: The Miracle of Easter*. Have children gather around you near the area where you prepared the special meal. Open your Bible to **Mark 14**, and show the passage to the children.

Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.** Show children page 1 of the *Bible Big Book*.

Ask: • **What do you remember about this donkey?** (Jesus rode it; it took Jesus into Jerusalem.)

Turn the page and say: **All the people praised Jesus as he rode the donkey into Jerusalem. Some people put their coats on the road to honor Jesus. Other people waved branches and shouted, "Praise God!"**

Ask: • **Why did the people love Jesus?** (Because he did good things; because he was God's Son.)

Turn the page, read the first section of the text for page 4, and ask:

• **What do you think the disciples made to eat? Do you see any clues in the picture?** (Bread; something to drink.)

Read the rest of the text for page 4, and then ask:

• **What do you think the disciples remembered about Jesus?** (That he made sick people well; that he said God loves us; that he's God's Son.)

Say: **There are many things we can remember about Jesus. Now let's move over to the garden and find out what happened when Jesus and his followers were in a garden.**

Turn to page 5 and read the first section of the text. Then say: **Let's kneel and pray in the garden just as Jesus did.** Lead children in kneeling and folding their hands. **Now let's fall asleep as the disciples did.** Lead children in lying on the floor and resting their heads on their hands. After a few seconds, clap your hands and say: **Wake up! Wake up!**

Gather children around the *Bible Big Book* again, and read the rest of the text for page 5. Say: **Jesus knew that it was a part of God's good plan for him to be arrested, even though he'd never done anything wrong. Jesus went with the soldiers because it was what God wanted him to do.**

The soldiers took Jesus to their leaders. Mean people told lies about Jesus and said that he did lots of bad things. The soldiers took Jesus and put him on a cross to die.

Show the children page 6. Say: **When Jesus was on the cross, some of the people were mean because they didn't love Jesus.** Point to the mean people. **But some of the people were sad. They loved Jesus. They knew that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.** Point to the sad people.

Close the *Bible Big Book*, and say: **Show me your sad faces. Oh my, you look really, really sad. Jesus' friends took his body and laid it in a cave called a tomb. They all cried.**

But guess what—Jesus' friends didn't stay sad because something very special happened. Wipe off your sad faces, and draw a smile on your face. Jesus died but then he came back to life. We can be happy at Easter time because ► Jesus gives us new life. Let's remember all of the wonderful things that Jesus has done for us.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: snack from the "Setting the Stage" activity, garden mural from Option 1

Gather children around the table with the prepared snack. Say: **While we enjoy this snack, let's talk about good things that Jesus did.**

Ask: • **What do you remember about Jesus? What good things did he do?** (Healed people; taught about God.)

Say: **Jesus and his disciples ate a special meal like this one. Jesus told the disciples to remember him as they ate the bread. Even now, people who believe in Jesus eat a special meal that reminds them about Jesus. You remembered lots of wonderful things about Jesus. Let's pray and thank God for sending us his Son because ► Jesus gives us new life.**

Lead children to the garden mural and have them kneel. Pray: **Dear Lord, we're praying in our garden just as Jesus and the disciples prayed in a garden. Thank you for Jesus and for all the good things Jesus did. We thank you that ► Jesus gives us new life. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Say: **When he was in the garden, Jesus prayed to God about what was happening in his life. It was his chance to share about things that made him happy or sad. When you pray, it's just like having a conversation with Jesus about what is going on in your world because Jesus is your friend.**

Closing

■ I Remember Jesus

SUPPLIES: heart necklace from Option 3 or scissors, red construction paper, and yarn

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. Set a heart necklace from Option 3 nearby. If you did not choose Option 3, make a simple heart necklace by cutting a piece of red construction paper into a heart shape. Then poke a hole near the top of the heart, and thread the yarn through the hole. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: Hi, everyone! Ooh, look at that pretty heart!

Teacher: That's actually a necklace, Whiskers. In fact, it's a very special necklace.

Whiskers: Really? How come?

Teacher: It's special because it helps us remember Jesus.

Whiskers: How can a necklace help anyone remember Jesus?

Teacher: I'm sure the children would like to tell you. Why don't you ask them?

Whiskers: Can you boys and girls tell me how a heart necklace can help you remember Jesus?

(Lead children in telling Whiskers that the heart reminds us how much Jesus loves us. Have one of the children slip the necklace around Whiskers' neck.)

Whiskers: Oh, I get it. Jesus loves us. That is a neat way to remember! But I still have a question about remembering Jesus.

Teacher: What's your question, Whiskers? Maybe we know the answer.

Whiskers: Do I always have to wear my necklace to remember Jesus? What about when I take a bath?

Teacher: Oh no, Whiskers, you don't have to wear your necklace all the time. *(Take the necklace off Whiskers and hold it up.)* You could hang it in your room or put it on a table beside your bed. Look. Your necklace is supposed to remind you of Jesus' love. Whiskers, did you know that Jesus loves us so much that he died for us?

Whiskers: Jesus did that for us?

Teacher: Yes! And the best news of all is that ► *Jesus gives us new life!*
Whiskers: Wow! ► *Jesus gives us new life* and this heart will help me remember!
Teacher: That's right, Whiskers.
Whiskers: Thank you for telling me all this good stuff! I'm going to run home and tell my brother all about it! This is so exciting. See you later, everybody!

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■ Jesus Gives New Life

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Let's celebrate the new life Jesus gives us by singing a song about our Bible verse.** Show children **2 Corinthians 5:17** in your Bible. **Can you say the verse with me? ► Believing in Jesus makes me a new person.**

◀ BIBLE VERSE

Lead children in singing “New With Jesus” (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17) with the CD (track 8) to the tune of “God Is So Good.” The song is recorded on the CD twice.



Believing in Jesus (*point index finger to sky*),
Believing in Jesus (*point index finger to sky*),
Believing in Jesus (*point index finger to sky*)
Makes me really new. (*Hug yourself.*)

Jesus loves me (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),
Jesus loves me (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),
Jesus loves me (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),
And that makes me new. (*Hug yourself.*)

(Repeat.)

After the song, gather children in a circle for prayer. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for us. Thank you for giving us special ways to remember Jesus. We want to celebrate Jesus because ► *Jesus gives us new life.* In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Lively Learning: Jesus Gives New Life*

Have children stand in a circle and hold hands. Together sing “New With Jesus” (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17) to the tune of “God Is So Good.” The words to the song are on page 85. During this song, have everyone walk in a circle while singing. After you sing the last line, have everyone jump up and shout “Hooray!” During the next verse, have everyone walk the opposite way. Jump and shout “Hooray!” after the second verse, too.

■ *Make to Take: Last Supper Place Mats*



Give each child a sheet of construction paper that’s not green or purple. Set out glue sticks and scraps of green and purple construction paper. Have children tear grape shapes from the purple paper and leaf shapes from the green paper and glue the shapes to their papers. Help children write their initials on their place mats. As children work, talk about the special meal that Jesus and his disciples shared.

■ *Treat to Eat: Flower Gardens*

Put several M&M’s candies on a paper towel or napkin for each child. Show children how to make garden flowers by arranging the M&M’s into circular patterns. The green and brown M&M’s could be used for leaves and stems. Encourage children to arrange their flowers, leaves, and stems and then gobble them up! Remind children that Jesus prayed in a garden.



■ *Story Picture: Jesus and His Followers Share a Meal*

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out small margarine tubs with a little grape juice in each tub. Have each child dip a cotton swab in the grape juice and paint the cup in the picture purple. Then have them glue a small piece of bread to the loaf of bread in the picture. Remind children that Jesus and his disciples shared a special meal together.



Today I learned... Jesus gives us new life.

Help me learn this:

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person
(adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Ask me:

- What did Jesus and his disciples eat at their special meal?
- What did Jesus do while he was in the garden?
- How can our family remember Jesus?

Family Fun

- Pour an inch of soil into a pie pan. Using a gingerbread-figure cookie cutter as a guide, make the outline of a person with small pebbles. Help your child sprinkle grass seed inside the pebble outline. Use a spray bottle to water the seed frequently. Loosely cover the pie pan with plastic wrap, and place it where it will get plenty of sun. Soon you'll have a grassy green reminder of the new life Jesus brings us.

Lesson 6
Today your child learned that **JESUS GIVES US NEW LIFE**. The class learned about the special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. The children prepared a snack of crackers and juice and talked about ways they can remember Jesus.

Jesus and His Followers Share a Meal

(Mark 14:12-26, 32-42)



